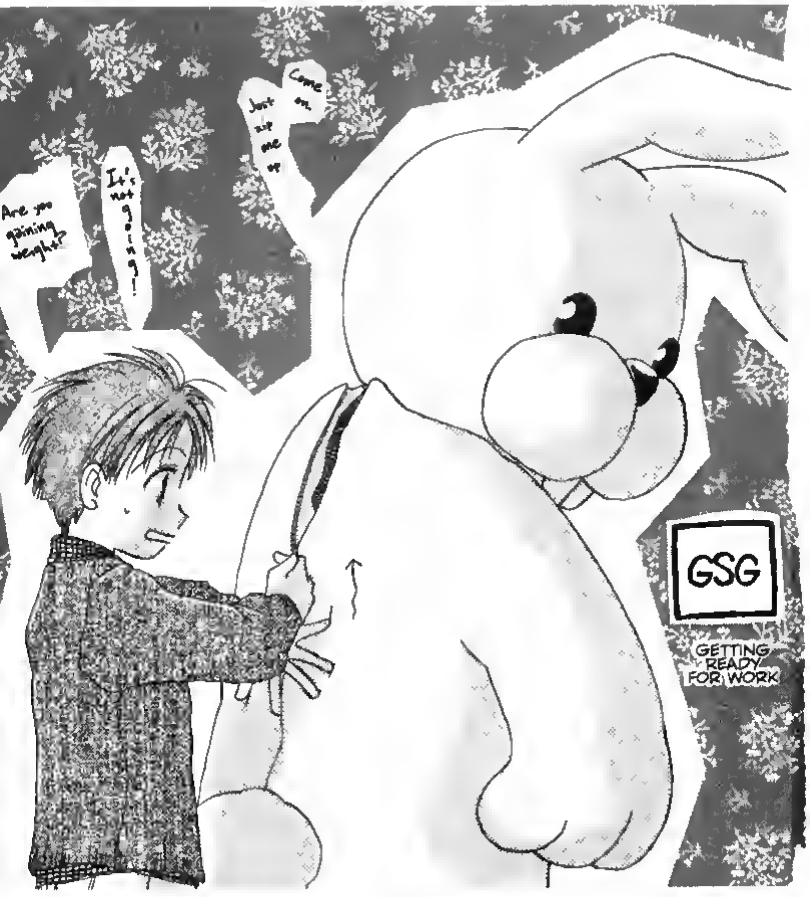
Purple Innocence
紫色の潔白
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
AND BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE
OF IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

OMUKAE desu.

VOLUME 1

MECA TANAKA



OMUKAE desu.

By Meca Tanaka

Volume 1

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G.S.G.

cmx

YOU STUBBORN OLD MULE!!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
MY PROBLEM?! YOU'RE MIGHTY FULL OF YOURSELF, SONNY, FOR SOMEONE WHO PARADES AROUND IN THAT GET-UP!
IT'S PART OF THE CONTRA—
GUWAAA!
FLIP
TAKE THAT!!
.....
Halluci-nation?
..SEEING A FIGHT BETWEEN A RABBIT AND AN OLD MAN.
EEE YA-AA-A!

LATE ONE NIGHT IN LATE WINTER..
MART
..MADOKA TSUTSUMI (18), A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS, IS ON HIS WAY BACK HOME FROM A CONVENIENCE STORE.
PREOCCUPIED WITH STUDYING, HE HASN'T BEEN SLEEPING LATELY..
..WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR..
IF I TELL YOU I'M NOT GOING, I'M NOT GOING!

AND SO...
MADOKA TSUTSUMI, COLLEGE STUDENT HOPEFUL ...
...HAS BEEN ON THIS EARTH FOR 18 YEARS BUT...
Please wait a moment.
YOU HEAR IT ALL THE TIME, RIGHT?
EXCEL-LENT JOB
IT TOOK YOU JUST ABOUT TWO MINUTES TO GRASP THE SITU-ATION
YOU LOOK SO REAL!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET A GHOST.
FMP!

IS THAT BABA-SAN'S FATHER?
YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT, OLD MAN!
DIE!
Ha-haaa!
No 1 !!
THAT'S RIGHT, I WAS AT YOUR WAKE...
EH?
OH! THE TSUTSUMI KID! YOU CAME TO MY WAKE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE TAKEN TO ROAMING AROUND LATE AT NIGHT?

Now I you're like an old man!
SO, YOU KNOW THE OLD MAN?
HE WAS MY NEIGHBOR THE BABAS LIVE KITTY-CORNER ACROSS THE STREET FROM ME.
GLOOM
IT'S IN THE CONTRACT.
...IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR APPEARANCE.
THIS MONTH THE THEME IS "CUTE."
WHAT?
I MEAN SHORT-TERM, MAYBE JUST A COUPLE HOURS?
YOU WANNA WORK FOR ME PART-TIME?
.....
I'M BUSY, TOO! I'M STUDYING FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS!!
SO WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS FIND HIS REASON FOR REFUSING TO GO.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BABY-SIT THE OLD FOOL!
CONTRARY TO THE APPEARANCE, I'M A BUSY GUY!!
DO IT YOURSELF.
FAST ANSWER

Hmmm...
...DEAD PEOPLE CAN FIND THEIR OWN WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE
NOW, USUALLY...
My name is NAKESHIMA
"SOMEONE WILL BE THERE TO PICK YOU UP."
WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE DO.
SO MY JOB...
BUT ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU'VE GOT PEOPLE WHO GET LOST OR DON'T WANT TO GO.
...IS TO TAKE THEM THERE.
HMPH
Want my business card?
WITH THE OLD GUY, I ASKED HIM WHY HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO...
...BUT YOU SAW THE ATTITUDE HE GAVE ME.
YEAH, I THINK...

First Collected Volume.

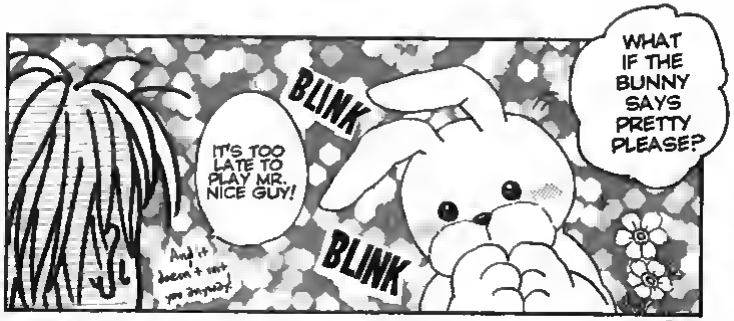
I'm thrilled. And scared. (breakdown)

If I had to put this chart into words, I would say "Getting to this point so soon after my debut makes me feel like I'm rushing through life."

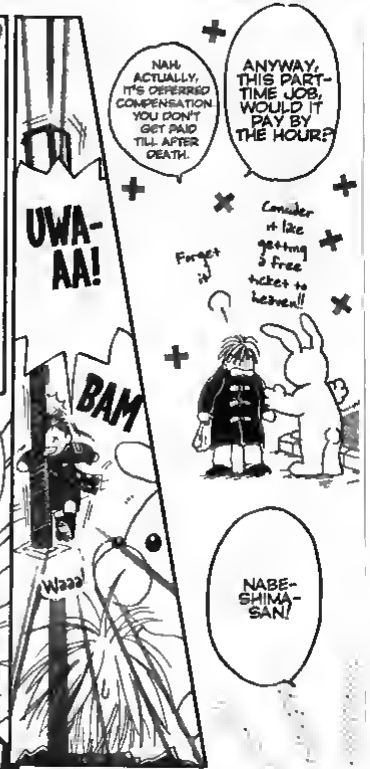
This is the feeling I wanted to have while struggling with manga but...

But then, it felt like I was being carried along by luck. It was like not moving by my own power, but being propelled by some vehicle.

BE CAREFUL AROUND CARS ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM.
THREAT
You're terrible!
See ya! Good luck with your work!
IN FACT, I'M GOING HOME!
STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, EH...?!

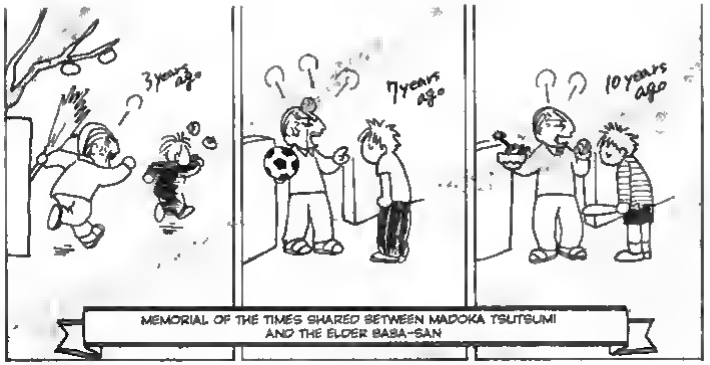


I forget the pole was here!
GROAN
OOOH! THAT WAS AN EXPERIMENT
SHE'S ALREADY KINDA CUTE, SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO WEAR A COSTUME
MY PARTNER
O333...
WHAT IS THAT?


UWA-AA!
BAM
Waaa!
NAH, ACTUALLY, IT'S DEFERRED COMPENSATION YOU DON'T GET PAID TILL AFTER DEATH.
ANYWAY, THIS PART-TIME JOB, WOULD IT PAY BY THE HOUR?
Consider it like getting a free ticket to heaven!!
Forget it!
NABE-SHIMA-SAN!

*SINCE THE KANJI FOR MADOKA'S NAME CAN ALSO BE READ AS "EN"

...HE LOOKED PEACEFUL, LIKE HE WAS SLEEPING. I DON'T THINK HE FELT ANY PAIN.
It happened so suddenly...
AND RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY HAVING A GOOD TIME, SOMEWHERE UP THERE.
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO PICTURE MY FATHER LIKE THAT. HEH-HEH



...Though I did steal his persimmons all the way through elementary school, so
See you later!
.....
YEESH! HE WAS ALWAYS TICKED OFF AT ME.

YEP, ANY DAY NOW
IT'S A SHAME MY FATHER DIDN'T LIVE TO SEE HIS FIRST GRAND-CHILD...
YOUR STOMACH'S HUGE ARE YOU ALMOST DUE?
GOOD MORNING, MADOKA-KUN!
OH!
BABA-NEE-CHAN.*
Here, I'll get that for you.
Thanks!
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY FATHER'S WAKE.
Just taking out the trash.
BUT AT LEAST...

*NEE-CHAN MEANS OLDER SISTER, BUT HERE IS USED INFORMALLY TO MEAN A WOMAN NOT MUCH OLDER THAN KIM.

SO, HOW ARE YA?
.....
ME? I'M FINE.
I'M TELLING YOU, I CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL I HEAR YOUR REASON!
FWAP
...GRAMPS, WHY ARE YOU HERE, IN THIS SPOT?
HA HA HA...
YEAH, STARTING WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD... YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FINE LITTLE WHIPPER-SNAPPER.
IT'S GOTTA BE EASIER TALKING TO SOMEONE FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAN THAT RABBIT!
COME ON, OUT WITH IT!
SILENCE DOESN'T FILL IN ANY BLANKS.
.....
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
VROOM
VROOM
YOU LIVED FIVE OR SIX HOUSES DOWN THAT WAY.
Around here

I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DOING THIS BUT...
...I COULDN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD SO...
.....
RUFFLE
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SO MUCH I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING
SIGH...
WHAT ARE YOU STILL HANGING AROUND FOR? YOU SHOULD GET GOIN'!
OH, AND I'M GOING TO TAKE ADVICE FROM A PERSIMMONS THIEF?
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE AND GO BACK TO YOUR STUDYING?

GUESS I'M STILL NOT USED TO EATING FOR TWO...
SWISH!
HERE. I MADE TOO MUCH OF THIS, SO PLEASE, TAKE IT.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO ALL THE TROUBLE! YOUR BODY MUST BE HEAVY.
HMMM... THAT'S HIS DAUGHTER, HUH?
MAYBE THE OLD GUY JUST WANTS TO SEE HIS FIRST GRAND-CHILD...
CREAK
HE CAN'T SEE IT FROM THE "OTHER SIDE?"
NOPE. ONCE YOU CROSS OVER, YOU CAN *FEEL* THINGS FROM HERE, BUT NOT SEE 'EM.
CREAK

ALL OF YOU, GET AWAY FROM ME NOW!!
TRY AN' MAKE ME!
HUFF
OH! BABA-SAN!
COMMUTING STYLE
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR ME PART-TIME!
CLASSIC FALLING OVER IN SURPRISE
SO, DID THE OLD GUY SPILL?
YOU ACTUALLY GO OUT IN PUBLIC LIKE THAT...?
HUH?!
...YOU WORK FOR THE RABBIT?!

"RESET."
I'M DEAD, TOO, BY THE WAY.
EH? BUT YOU'VE GOT A BODY...
THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY THING. NOT THE REAL DEAL.
HE'LL FORGET EVERYTHING, AND ACCOMPANY ME TO THE OTHER SIDE AS A "BLANK SLATE".
...WELL, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
IF HE STAYS PAST HIS TIME LIMIT OR REFUSES TO GO...
WHAT'LL HAPPEN?

CAN'T HE JUST STICK AROUND TILL HIS GRANDCHILD IS BORN?
WHY?
THIS IS A CONUNDRUM.
Hmmm...
Yo!
HOW ARE YA DOING?
HIS FIRST GRANDCHILD... I SEE...
COME ON, WHY'S IT A PROBLEM?
You're gonna draw now!
CREAK
CREAK
Wait, the moment to let down?
YUZUKO, YOU DRAW TERRIBLY!
AND NOT ONLY THAT, DEAD PEOPLE CAN'T GET CLOSE WHEN NEW LIFE IS BROUGHT INTO BEING.
SO EVEN IF HIS DAUGHTER GAVE BIRTH TONIGHT, IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT HE'D BE ABLE TO SEE IT...
KEEP OUT
BECAUSE THE OLD MAN DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO WAIT AROUND.

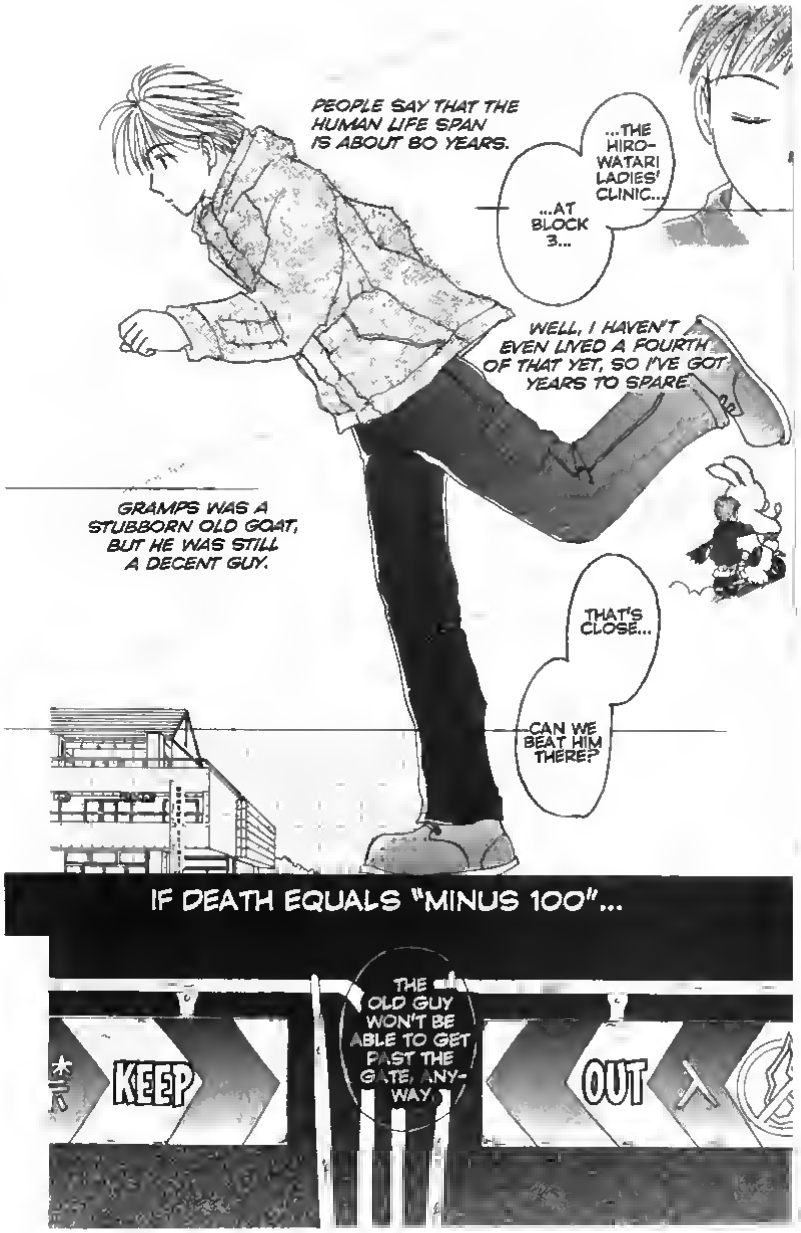
VROOOM
CLANG
Waaa!
NAAAH!
HEY, EN-CHA-
GAH!!
He's following us!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
.....
.....!!
UM, HERE...

...SURE SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF RULES
THE AFTERLIFE...
BABA-SAN?
VROOOM
SLAM

...THAT A "CONTAINER" IS ALL YOU NEED, RIGHT?
.....
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF...
STOP CRYING ...
...AND CONCENTRATE, YUZUKO!
I'M SORRY!
SOMETHING NOT GOOD, I TAKE IT?
EN-CHAN, NOOO! COME BACK!!
WHIZZZ
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
WHERE'S THE OLD GUY?
God...

WHAT THE BUNNY WAS TALKING ABOUT EARLIER...
Scare man for witness!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN? YUZUKO-CHAN?
HERE!
...ARE YOU LISTENING?
...IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A PART-TIME WORKER, WE HAVE TO MAKE YOU AN ID CARD
REGISTRATION FORM
I AM (DEAD / NOT DEAD)
Name
Tsetsumi
Address
THEY'VE GOT BARRICADES AGAINST DEAD PEOPLE THERE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
...DEAD PEOPLE CAN'T GO INTO MATERNITY WARDS?
PASSPORT
SO... ...YOU'RE SAYING...
HAVING A BODY IS PROOF THAT YOU'RE ALIVE, SEE?
ONLY PEOPLE WITH CONTAINERS... THAT IS, BODIES... CAN ENTER

BUT CAN'T THE OLD MAN AND I TOGETHER...
I'LL LOAN YOU MY BODY.
THAT WAY, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET INTO THE HOSPITAL.
...COME OUT TO ZERO?


PEOPLE SAY THAT THE HUMAN LIFE SPAN IS ABOUT 80 YEARS.
...AT BLOCK 3...
...THE HIRO-WATARI LADIES' CLINIC...
WELL, I HAVEN'T EVEN LIVED A FOURTH OF THAT YET, SO I'VE GOT YEARS TO SPARE.
GRAMPS WAS A STUBBORN OLD GOAT, BUT HE WAS STILL A DECENT GUY.
THAT'S CLOSE...
CAN WE BEAT HIM THERE?
IF DEATH EQUALS "MINUS 100"...
THE OLD GUY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET PAST THE GATE, ANY-WAY.
KEEP
OUT

EXCUSE ME. AREN'T YOU TSUTSUMI-KUN?
HI, I'M BABA.
WELL... IT'S A GIRL!
AND SHE'S THE CUTEST ONE HERE!
Awww... Isn't she cute?
Heh-heh-heh-heh-heh
BY THE WAY, TSUTSUMI WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UNTIL THAT DAY...

THE SOUL...
...LOSES ITS CONTAINER...
SEE THE FACE OF YOUR FIRST GRAND-CHILD...
...THEN GET OUT OF "TOWN" WITH ALL YOUR MEMORIES INTACT.
...AND CLIMBS INTO THE SKY. BUT EVENTUALLY...
...IT FINDS ITS WAY BACK.

HIS DAUGHTER? WHO'S HIS DAUGHTER? MY BABY? YOU MEAN, THAT'S NOT MY CHILD? GET OUT OF HERE! BUT THEN, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
STRIDE
STRIDE
STRIDE
PANIC
SWISH

YES?!
Baba Masamichi (son-in-law adopted as an heir)
MASA-MICHI-SAN!!

OKAY.
I'M GOING TO GIVE IT BACK NOW.
HUFF
After that, Baba Masamichi (adopted into the Baba family) got smacked by his wife.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S MY MOP?
POW

PLEASE TAKE CARE...
...OF MY DAUGHTER.
BOW
.....?

WHEN NIGHT AND MORNING...
WELL, OLD MAN, THERE'S NOTHIN' ELSE KEEPING YOU HERE
HMPH.
AND LIFE AND DEATH...
...AND THE SEASONS OVERLAP...
WHAT ARE YOU, FROM JAMAICA?
Can a senior student afford to be that careless?
AND EVERYTHING TURNED OUT ALRIGHT IN THE END. NO PROBLEM, MON!
AH, WELL, I MADE OUT OKAY.
SONNY, I'M SURE THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE..
...WHO GOES TO THE OTHER SIDE WITHOUT LEAVING SOMETHING PRECIOUS BEHIND.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
So where's your grandkid?
CLINIC

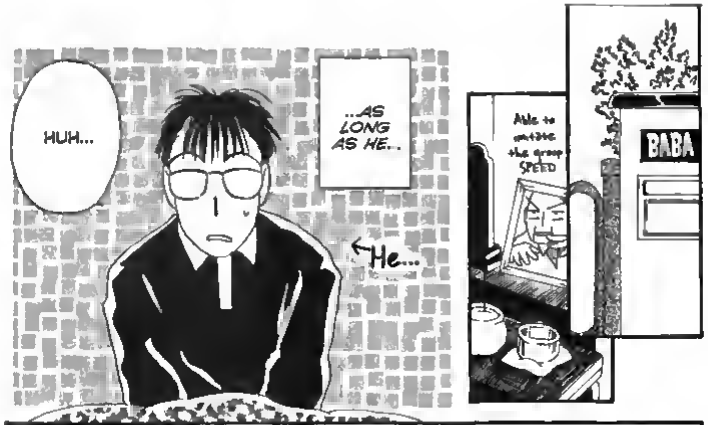
IT JUST...
Oh!
...CAME OUT!
Sorry!
...WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SAYING "TAKE CARE OF MY DAUGHTER" IN MY BODY?!
I have to imagine what your son-in-law's thinking! Sigh... I'll have to explain everything later. What a pain!
WHAM
PUNISH-MENT!
HUH.
IN MOST CASES LIKE THIS, THE HOST BODY IS TAKEN OVER COMPLETELY!
Ah, I see! I didn't even think of that!
Hey!
I'm surprised you're alright.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH DANGER YOU PUT YOURSELF IN?!
Ooooo! Jeez, you'd think the hand on a rob— but not would be safe!
REALLY?

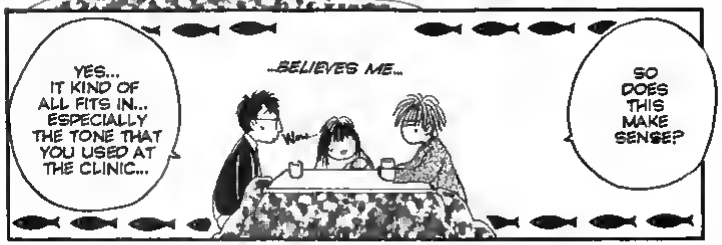
THANKS! HIROMATSU LADY'S CLINIC AND [illegible]

Ah, "Love Month" is over
BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME!
I'M SURE ...
...next time?
...THAT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE MY CRAZY STORY.
THEY'D JUST WRITE IT OFF TO LACK OF SLEEP AND STUDYING TOO HARD.
WELL...
Just shut up and enjoy the ride!
I can't see with this thing on!
P
C'MERE A SECOND!
PSST
PSST
.....
OKAY. I'LL TELL THEM.
I SUPPOSE EVEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS CAN HAPPEN ONCE IN A WHILE.
KID!
Gee... I'll go home.
GOOD BOY!
...I'LL REPORT IT AS AN ACCIDENT.
BUT SINCE THE WHOLE THING STARTED BEFORE YOU REGISTERED WITH US...
Ah!
EN-CHAN...
..YOU KNOW, REALLY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GET PUNISHED FOR WHAT YOU DID.

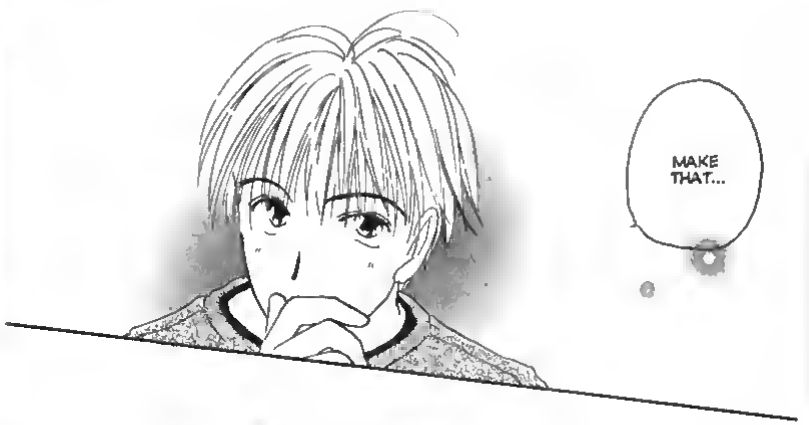
I'm supposed to push them...?
ACTU-ALLY...
SO TRY AND PUSH 'EM IN THAT DIRECTION.
I'VE GOT ONE IDEA.
.. SO WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION, TOO, MADOKA-KUN.
WE'RE TORN BETWEEN TWO NAMES ...
WHA--?!
Already?!

FUYUKA...
...AND HARUKA.
READY? THEY SHOULD NAME HER...
WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE BETTER?

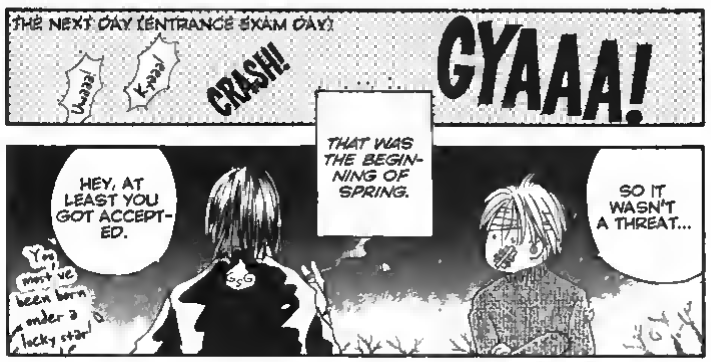

HUH...
...AS LONG AS HE..
←He...
Able to outrun the group SPEED
BABA


YES... IT KIND OF ALL FITS IN... ESPECIALLY THE TONE THAT YOU USED AT THE CLINIC...
...BELIEVES ME...
SO DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?

HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR DAUGHTER'S NAME YET?
BY THE WAY, BABA-SAN...
ABOUT MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S NAME..
Look at how strong she is!
HUH. SO DAD...
...CAME TO SEE THE BABY.

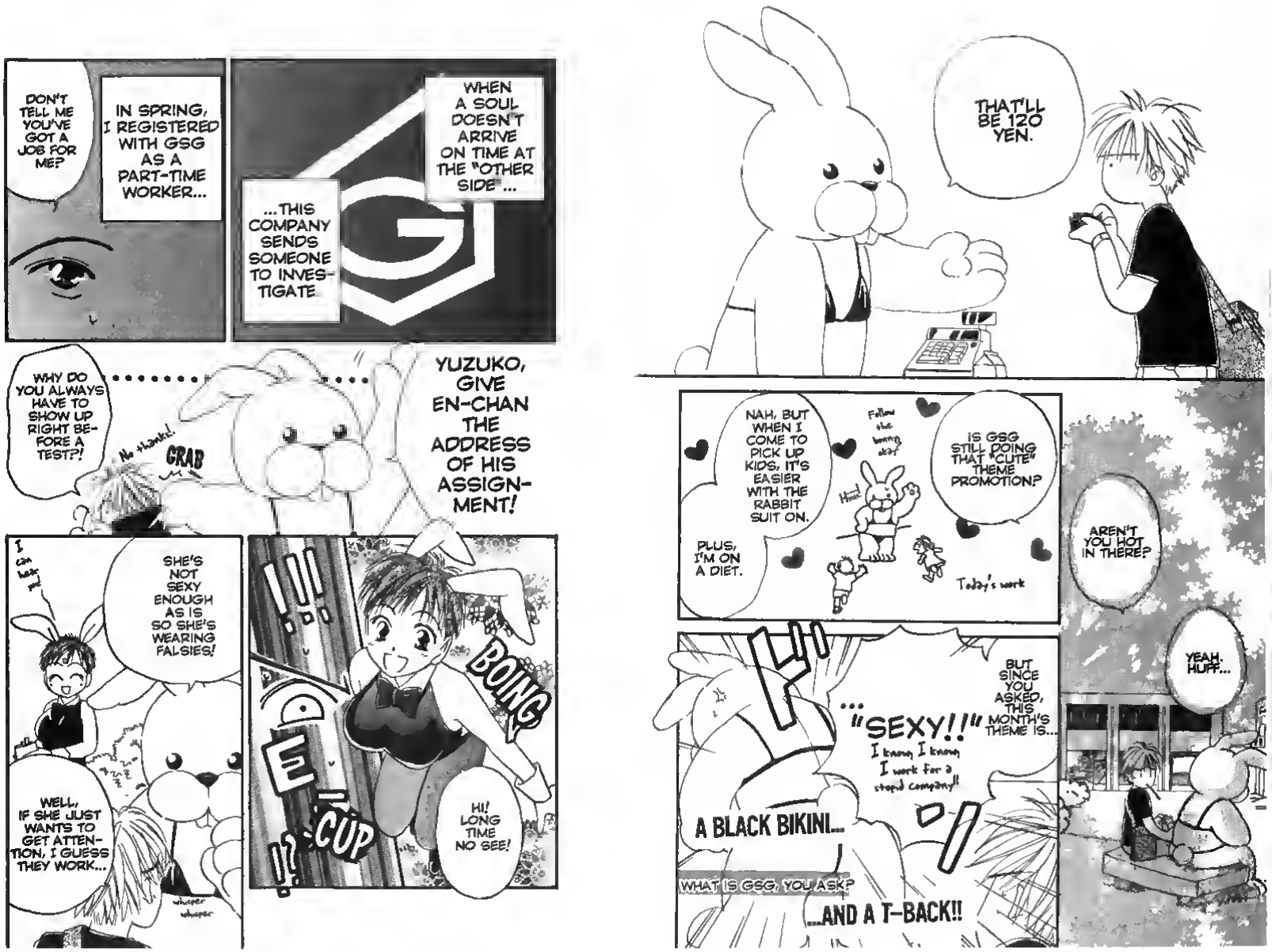


*THE KANJI CHOSEN MEANS "SPRING SCENT"



His face has no expression. I've have no idea what he's thinking!
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING! IT FELT LIKE I WAS IN A POSITION WHERE I COULDN'T REFUSE!
YEAH, HE ALWAYS DOES LOOK ANNOYED.
HE ASKED ME TO LEND HIM MY NOTES...
...BUT IT FELT LIKE HE WAS FORCING ME TO TURN THEM OVER.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST SAID NO?
The Next.
I had to get out of there.
SUMMER CAMP
...I COULDN'T GIVE HER THE NOTES BACK AFTER THAT...
I'll take that.
AH, FORGET ABOUT IT!
I MEAN, SHE SAID I WAS SCARY.
.....
LIGHTLY
ARE YOU SURE?
Please handle gently
STRAWBERRY
39

ISN'T TSUTSUMI-KUN SCARY?
MADOKA TSUTSUMI, FRESHMAN COLLEGE STUDENT....
...SOON BEFORE A TEST.
WHY?


DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A JOB FOR ME?
IN SPRING, I REGISTERED WITH GSG AS A PART-TIME WORKER...
WHEN A SOUL DOESN'T ARRIVE ON TIME AT THE "OTHER SIDE"...
...THIS COMPANY SENDS SOMEONE TO INVESTIGATE
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SHOW UP RIGHT BEFORE A TEST?!
No thanks!
GRAB
YUZUKO, GIVE EN-CHAN THE ADDRESS OF HIS ASSIGNMENT!
I can hear it
SHE'S NOT SEXY ENOUGH AS IS SO SHE'S WEARING FALSIES!
WELL, IF SHE JUST WANTS TO GET ATTENTION, I GUESS THEY WORK...
whisper whisper
BOING
E CUP
!?
HI! LONG TIME NO SEE!
THAT'LL BE 120 YEN.
NAH, BUT WHEN I COME TO PICK UP KIDS, IT'S EASIER WITH THE RABBIT SUIT ON.
PLUS, I'M ON A DIET.
Follow the bunny okay?
Hm!
Today's work
IS GSG STILL DOING THAT "CUTE" THEME PROMOTION?
...
"SEXY!!"
I know, I know I work for a stupid company!!
BUT SINCE YOU ASKED, THIS MONTH'S THEME IS...
A BLACK BIKINI...
WHAT IS GSG, YOU ASK?
...AND A T-BACK!!
AREN'T YOU HOT IN THERE?
YEAH. HUFF...

LOOKS LIKE A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
SORRY!
I'll apologize, then start...
I CAN'T MAKE IT UP THERE!
...
Religion, I don't get. I've got the textbook, so maybe that'll straighten things out
Okay, get home, copy the English notes... review biology...
GLANCE

SO WHO'S GONNA CHOOSE SOME SILLY RABBIT OVER ME?!
Mine look exactly like the real thing! They even feel real!
YOU'VE GOT TO WORK IT MORE, GIRL! I'M STILL SEXIER THAN YOU!
WIGGLE!!
Now's a good time to make my getaway
AND I'M SURE HE WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE IT.
DON'T WORRY, HE HEARD
AH!
EN-CHAN!
TOSEN MEDICAL CENTER IS ON THE WAY TO THE STATION. LOOK UP AT THE ROOF!
Uuuu! I can't hear you! I can't hear you!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S TRY AND MAKE THIS QUICK.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU "CROSSED OVER" YET?
.....
NO, OF COURSE NOT! AND WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!
WHA--?!
DO YOU WANNA GO TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK?
I WORK A PART-TIME JOB RELATED TO YOUR CONDITION...
HUH...?
RATTLE
RATTLE
EH, NO SPECIAL REASON..
THEN GO ALREADY!
Please! I'm in a hurry!

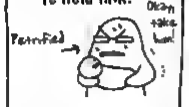
.....
...!
AAAH! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT ME TO DO!
WONDER IF THE KID HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

My Older Sister's Son

Between the time I first started doing Omakae Desu and now, my nephew was born.

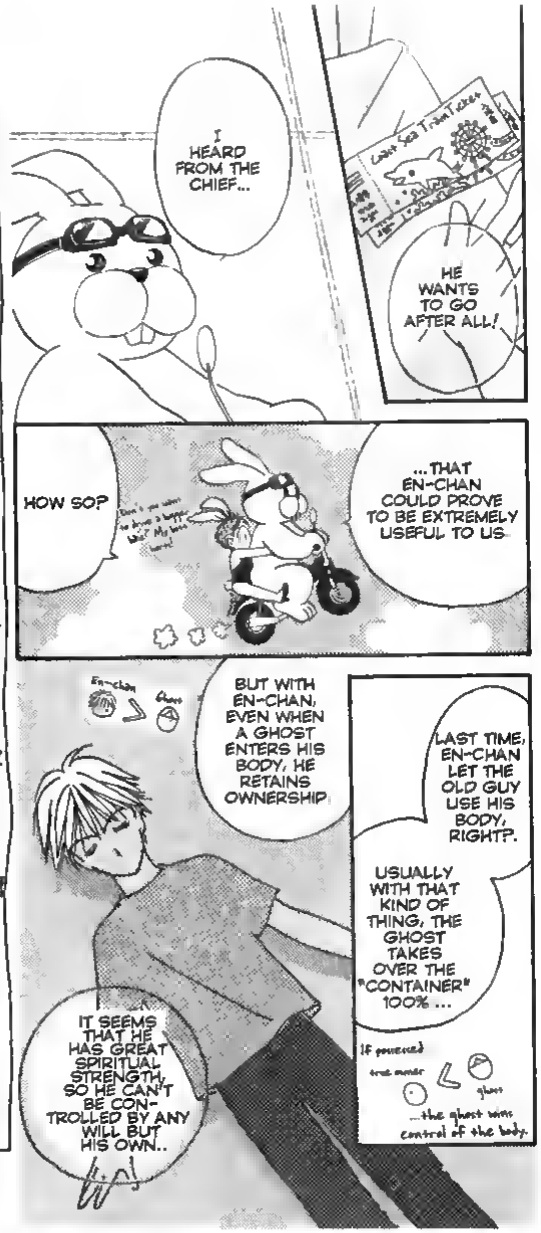
Hirowatari Ladies Clinic, which appears in the first story, actually exists and is where my sister gave birth.

Right now, my nephew is too young to even be placed in a sitting position, so I'm too scared to hold him.



His name is Ryesuke. If you pet him, he grins

Ahhh, I hope by the time he can read that this comic is still in circulation... I intend to make him buy it...


I HEARD FROM THE CHIEF...
HE WANTS TO GO AFTER ALL!
HOW SO?
...THAT EN-CHAN COULD PROVE TO BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO US
BUT WITH EN-CHAN, EVEN WHEN A GHOST ENTERS HIS BODY, HE RETAINS OWNERSHIP.
LAST TIME, EN-CHAN LET THE OLD GUY USE HIS BODY, RIGHT?
USUALLY WITH THAT KIND OF THING, THE GHOST TAKES OVER THE "CONTAINER" 100% ...
IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS GREAT SPIRITUAL STRENGTH, SO HE CAN'T BE CONTROLLED BY ANY WILL BUT HIS OWN..
...the ghost wins control of the body.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M A PRISONER HERE!
WHAT'S THIS?
RUSTLE
RIGHT AROUND HERE...
MAYBE THIS WAS HIS BED...
FIRST THING IS FOLLOW IT TO THE BEGINNING...
.....

I'LL GO THERE MYSELF AND CHECK IT OUT!
I WONDER IF PEOPLE ON THE FERRIS WHEEL CAN SEE OVER HERE, TOO?
THERE'S AN AMUSEMENT PARK OVER THERE.
.....
WHY DON'T YOU GO?
BUT YOU LIKE FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.
NO THANKS! THEME PARKS MAKE ME TIRED.
WHY DON'T YOU GO, NABESHIMA-SAN?
MAYBE IT MEANS BOTH OF THEM HAVE TO BE USED...
THERE ARE TWO TICKETS.
UM, SAKAMOTO SHINYAKUN, 14-YEARS-OLD, RIGHT?
I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE UNTIL ABOUT SUNDOWN TOMORROW TO BE ON THIS EARTH.
HUH?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
I THOUGHT HE WAS A QUIET BOY!
Are you still stuck on with that story?
IT LOOKS LIKE IF WE DON'T USE THE TICKETS, THE CHAINS WON'T DISAPPEAR.
LIKE I TOLD HIM, I DON'T EVEN WANNA GO!!

Here we are!
Whoa!
HE CAN LET DEAD PEOPLE EXPERIENCE LIFE ONCE MORE!
MMM... I'M NOT TOO SURE...
CONVENIENT FOR US, NO?
SO DON'T GIVE ME "I'M NOT SURE!" WE'VE GOTTA USE HIM!
THE CHAINS ARE COMING OUT OF THE TICKETS...MEANING...
THE BOY'S A GHOST SO HE CAN'T USE 'EM...
UMMM...
SHINYAKUN..
CAN YOU SEE?
Scary!
I KNOW HE GOT THE THUMBS UP FROM UPSTAIRS, BUT EVEN SO, THIS IMAGE BOTHERS ME.
I CAN JUST LEND OUT MY BODY AGAIN.
OH. YEAH.
He's learned..
He's kid

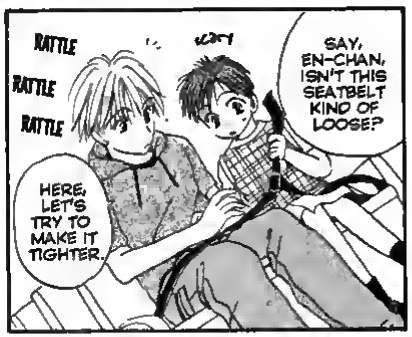
.....
No chest to speak of today
BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO WITH YUZUKO-CHAN?
AS YOU CAN SEE, THAT CHEST YOU SAW HER WITH YESTERDAY WAS A FAKE!
(This is Shinya)
WAAA! IT FEELS LIKE MY BODY IS MOVING BY ITSELF...
Yes
...HE'S IN.
I DON'T REALLY CARE! ANYONE WOULD'VE BEEN OKAY!
Jeans no need to rip flying off the table!
DEEP BREATH
HUH! IS THAT RIGHT?
LISTEN, YUZUKO...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
What should we do from here?
Come on, let's go!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
IN SUM, A HEALTHY 18-YEAR-OLD BOY THAT YOU CAN POSSESS IF YOU ACT NOW...ER...
.....
SHINYA-KUN, I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA! TOMORROW, BORROW THIS BOY'S BODY AND GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
...and free!
He's free.
...SO I GET TO CHOOSE WHO GOES WITH ME...
WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO CHOOSE ...
...I THOUGHT IT MEANT PUTTING ME IN THE EMBARRASSING SITUATION OF ASKING SOMEONE I'VE NEVER MET OUT ON A DATE
Coast Sea
...ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT. YOU WANT ME TO GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
BUT THOSE TICKETS ARE MINE...

BECAUSE OF ALL THE UNCERTAINTIES, I STILL THINK THERE'S A BIG RISK
HE'S ONLY DONE THIS ONCE BEFORE SO WE DON'T HAVE MUCH DATA REGARDING HOW IT'LL WORK OUT
EN-CHAN IS STILL AT THE "TRIAL STAGE"
OH, I'M NO GOOD AT THIS...
FINE!! I'LL DO MY BEST BY MYSELF!!
AREN'T YOU GOING TOO, NABESHIMA-SAN?
WHA—?!
SO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, DEAL WITH IT. BYE!
I can't do it alone!
Hen walk
Mm?
...I SAID THAT?
I shouldn't have room to be blue!
GRIN
WHAT, DON'T YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF?
SHINYA, WHAT IS IT?
BY THE WAY, BIG BOOBS ARE MORE UNSUITABLE FOR YOU THAN ANYONE ELSE IN ALL OF JAPAN!
HUH!
HMPH!

I'M NOT SQUIRMING!!
HEY!!
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO, JUST TELL ME AND I'LL DO IT! JEEZ! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IF YOU JUST MENTALLY SQUIRM AROUND!
AND YOU SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT YOURSELF THAN ME! YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE TEST!!
?
EH?
SQUEEZE
YEAH, WELL...
...MAYBE SO, BUT...
Decided to show up after all out of worry
En-chan, you walk too fast!
Yay!
Camera flash
WELL, THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME. I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS!
I LOVE AMUSEMENT PARKS AND FREE MAKES IT ALL THE BETTER...
...SO THIS IS NO PROBLEMO!!
Hen what do you wanna go on?!
Waaa!
STRIDE
STRIDE
STRIDE

THIS BODY ISN'T MINE BUT...
SO, WHAT SHOULD WE GO ON NEXT?
I KNOW THIS LOOKS STUPID, BUT...
Alright, smart-- you see how you like this...
PINCH
OW OW OW OW OW!
WHA--?



...THESE SENSATIONS HE'S SHARING WITH ME...

...FEELING PAIN, GETTING COLD AND HOT, WALKING OUTSIDE...

...I COULDN'T DO ANY OF THESE THINGS IN THE HOSPITAL.

ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
LIKE IT OR NOT?
YOU'RE ON A DATE WITH A GIRL AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK AND YOU NEVER CRACK A SMILE!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? WE'RE HERE FOR YOU TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.
HEY! YOU'VE GOT THE CHILLS!
RATTLE
RATTLE
OOGH!
THAT'S RIGHT! LIKE IT OR NOT, I FEEL EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO!
HUH. YOU CAN FEEL STUFF LIKE THAT?
SHOOT

...QUIET, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A PARAGRAPH!
I LOVE THAT BOOK, TOO.
SHINYA-KUN...
WHO DID YOU REALLY WANT TO INVITE HERE?
...AND IT WOULDN'T BOTHER HER.
THAT'S ENOUGH, ALL RIGHT?!
STOP BOTHERING ME!
AN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY NURSE..
Read that...
Re Usami
Who's that?
Ummm
...WHO WOULDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
OH, COME ON...
...SHINYA-KUN...
I WAS SURE THAT I COULD SAY ANYTHING..

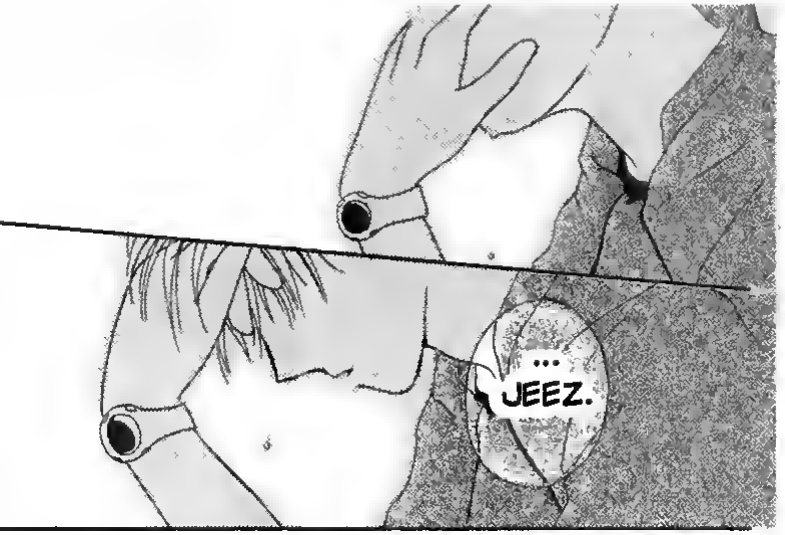
.....
HUF HUF
LET'S FORGET IT AND MOVE ON!
OKAY, SO THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...
EXIT
GAAAA!
RATTLE
RATTLE
ROAR
Hmm.
PLOP
STRIDE
STRIDE
STRIDE
HUH?
GRAB
LIFT
HEY, SHINYA...
.....

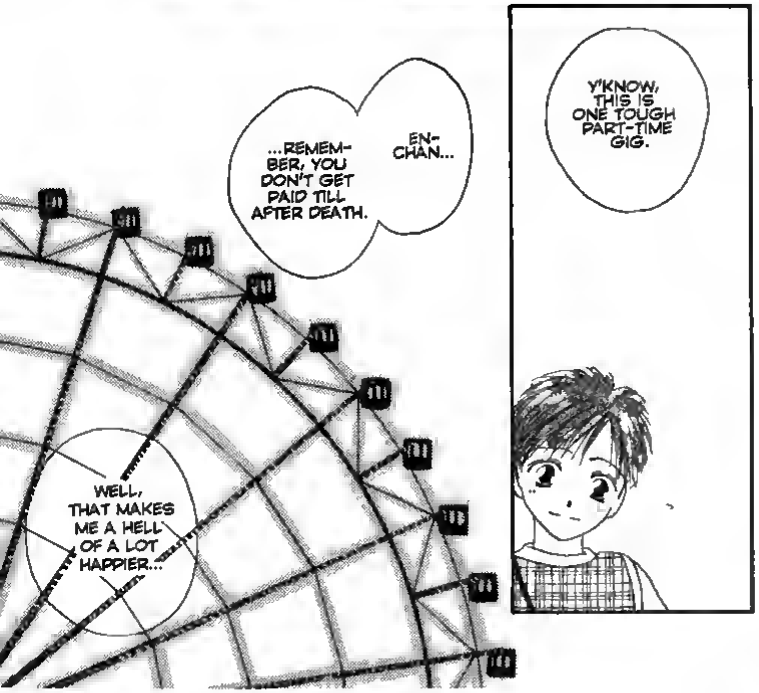
TO THE FERRIS WHEEL.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
EN-CHAN?
SHE LAUGHED...
...JUST LIKE SHE ALWAYS DID.
I'LL GO THERE MYSELF AND CHECK IT OUT!

SHINYA-KUN...
DID SHE CRY LIKE THAT...
THERE'S AN AMUSEMENT PARK OVER THERE.
... WHEN I...?
I WONDER IF PEOPLE ON THE FERRIS WHEEL CAN SEE OVER HERE, TOO?

SHINYA...
NOW YOU CAN KEEP YOUR PROMISE.
ACTUALLY...

SHE LAUGHED...
...LOOKING LIKE SHE WAS SO HAPPY...

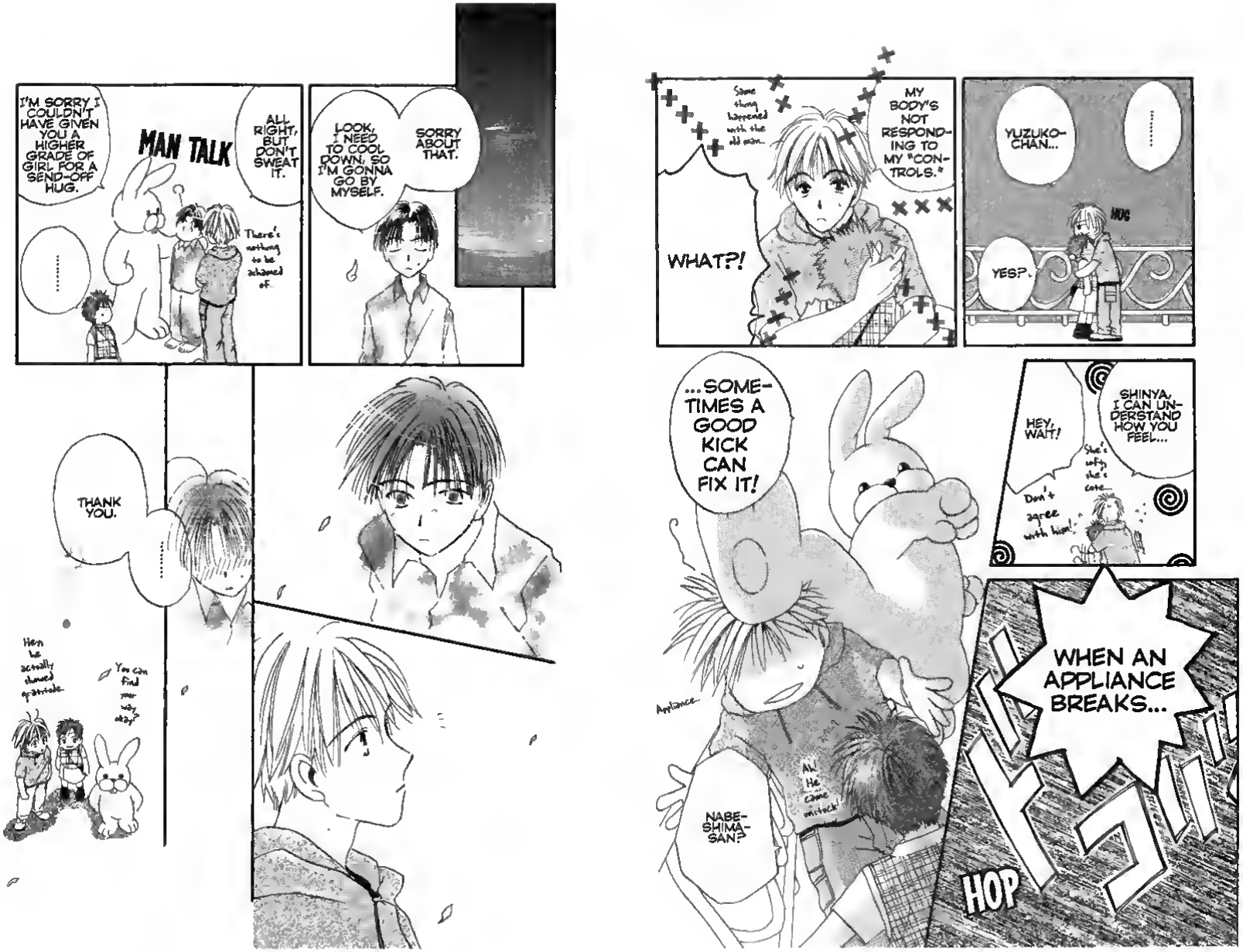

...
JEEZ.


...REMEMBER, YOU DON'T GET PAID TILL AFTER DEATH.
EN-CHAN...
Y'KNOW, THIS IS ONE TOUGH PART-TIME GIG.
WELL, THAT MAKES ME A HELL OF A LOT HAPPIER...

"THANK YOU."
"I'M SORRY!"
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO END LIKE THIS.
AND NOW I CAN'T.
SHINYA...
I DIDN'T TELL HER ANY OF THOSE THINGS
I WANTED TO CARRY OUT MY PROMISE THEN, WHEN I MADE IT.
DON'T CRY.

...THE NEXT TIME YOU DO THIS...
...DO IT WITH SOMEONE YOU REALLY LIKE.

Y'KNOW, ACTUALLY...
...THE BEST PART OF THE DATE IS SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND NOW.
EH?!
AH!
SHINYA, YOUR TIME'S JUST ABOUT UP.
SUNSET, SHE SAID, RIGHT?
LISTEN, JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL KID...
WOW. IT'S BEAU-TIFUL...


I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE GIVEN YOU A HIGHER GRADE OF GIRL FOR A SEND-OFF HUG.
MAN TALK
ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T SWEAT IT.
There's nothing to be ashamed of.
LOOK, I NEED TO COOL DOWN, SO I'M GONNA GO BY MYSELF.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
THANK YOU.
Hmm he actually showed gratitude.
You can find your way okay?
Some thing happened with the old man.
MY BODY'S NOT RESPONDING TO MY "CONTROLS."
WHAT?!
YUZUKO-CHAN...
YES?.
HUG
...SOMETIMES A GOOD KICK CAN FIX IT!
HEY, WAIT!
SHINYA, I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL...
She's ugly, she's cute.
Don't agree with him!
Aniance
Ah! He came m-tock!
NABESHIMA-SAN?
WHEN AN APPLIANCE BREAKS...
HOP

P
OH!!
.....
SOMEBODY DROPPED THIS
RUSTLE
Night view from Ferris wheel
!
TOSEN MEDICAL CENTER

EN-CHAN...
WHEN IT'S YOUR TIME TO DIE, DON'T MAKE US COME AND PICK YOU UP.
I UNDER-STAND.

Okay, boy.
.....
SHUDDER
TA TA TA TA
SORRY I'M LATE WITH THIS.
Here.
S-SURE!
QUIVER
QUIVER
HEY...
...ARE YOU SURE THAT'S COOL WITH YOU, TO BE THOUGHT OF AS SCARY?
I'm wearing lucken in here!!
The bunny suit gets all hot and stuffy!
We have to pick up a 5-year-old search to open and hear it!
WHAT ARE YOU, HIGH? NOTHING SCARES ME!
SCARY HOW?
...DO YOU TWO THINK I'M SCARY?
.....MMM, ALL RIGHT, TELL ME THIS...

I could use it.
PHEW...
WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER "THEME MONTH" IN THE BAG.
WAIT A SECOND!
OH!
OH!
TOO BAD. THOSE WERE SOME PRETTY IMPRESSIVE BREASTS.!
HAHAHA!

THIS IS NOT BASEBALL STORY !!
OMUKAE desu.

IN THAT CASE, WHAT DO I CARE?!
HUH?
IT'S YOUR LOSS.

YEAH!
Ahhh, I feel like I can really move!! Anybody wants to fight, come on I can take you!
NABE-SHIMA-SAN IS SURE IN A GOOD MOOD.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WEAR THE SUIT...
This month, that's my job.
WILD!!
I guess I should ask...
WHAT'S THIS MONTH'S THEME?
Like usual kinshou JJJ!
I'm gonna eat you!
WELL, AM I WILD?
GULP!!

NOTICE

THE BUNNY SUIT DOES NOT APPEAR IN THIS EPISODE.

AND NOW, ENJOY THE STORY.

SAT
4
3
6th Drinking Party 7:00
...THE ONLY GLITCH IS GSG IS REALLY BUSY AT THE MOMENT...
...SO WE CAN'T HELP TRAIN YOU DIRECTLY.
11
Banquet at Inn
SO LET'S TRAIN TO STRENGTHEN IT!
Get away!
BUT DON'T WORRY. I'M LEAVING YOU IN GOOD HANDS.
Hmm?
WOBBLE
AYE
AGUMA-SAN IS NEAR...
I'M RIGHT HERE.
...SHE'S NEAR.
HER NAME IS...
!!
FLINCH

From Nakashima's mom first
Dammit!
... MY NAME IS MADOKA TSUTSUMI
I'M 19 YEARS OLD
just turned 19
I couldn't help it! When there's a hamster or kitten in front of you, how can you not touch it?
SO WHAT'S THIS SPECIAL TRAINING?
I CAN GIVE DEAD PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO LIVE AGAIN, THROUGH ME.
Come on in!
Aaaah! You're harassing me too, Nakashima-san!
AND SINCE FINDING OUT I HAD THIS "SKILL"..
YOU NEED TO GET THE KINKS OUT OF YOUR ABILITY.
RIGHT!
SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!
You're cute!
Kyaaa!
AH!
Again?
GSG IS A COMPANY BASED IN THE "OTHER SIDE"...
AND WHAT THEY DO IS GUIDE SOULS WHO HAVE TROUBLE FINDING THEIR WAY THERE
FOR SOME REASON, I ENDED UP WORKING PART-TIME FOR THEM...
WHACK!

I DON'T WANT TO LET GO!! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG!!
AND I NEVER KNOW WHERE YOU ARE...!!
You're so mean to me!
You don't wanna make me angry!
...NOW LEGGO OF ME, AGUMA!!
Give me some breathing room!
He's—naked!
POOF
AAAAH!
ROGER!!!
YUZUKO!! CARRY OUT GSG SECRET TECHNIQUE #5!!
ARE YOU MADOKA TSU-TSUMI?
YEAH. THERE HASN'T BEEN A REAL PICTURE OF MY FACE THESE LAST COUPLE OF PAGES BUT... IT'S ME.
Ah!
I gotta admit, she's kinda funny...

BOOT
K-pow!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
I'M AGUMA...
...WITH GSG SUPPORT!
...GREAT...

Seeds of Laughter

Making people laugh is hard.

There are a lot of things that I'm susceptible to laughing at, most recently being comedians who consistently play the "dumb" part. And even more specifically, I like when their partner, the "straight man," doesn't respond with the usual sarcastic comeback, but instead gives a vague, dumbfounded answer. That pregnant pause between the stupid guy's utterances and the straight guy's answer always makes me laugh.

I'm also into comedy that is always in style, like funny misprints. "VOW," which I discovered eight years ago, is still one of my favorite books.

Aaahahahaha!

And then I dig comedians who specialize in overreacting, like Takeshi Fujii, Koraku Yanagizawa Shingo, etc.

5:30...
WHAT TIME IS IT?
Aaaah! Something that is extremely humiliating.
HUFF HUFF
OKAY... FROM 5:30 TO 7...
...I'M GOING TO OCCUPY YOUR BODY, SO DURING THAT TIME, TRY TO FIGHT OFF MY ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OVER!!
UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
YOUR ANSWER?
ROGER...
Z Z Z Z

THAT HURT ME, TOO!
RIP
AND YOU DON'T SHOUT AT SOMEBODY WHO'S TEACHING YOU!
OW-WW!
WHOO
A LONG TIME AGO, YOU WENT TO THE ZOO AND WERE SO SCARED BY THE ELEPHANTS THAT YOU WET YOUR PANTS? DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?
YOU DON'T PEEK AT SOME-ONE'S PAST!!

MADOKA'S STRICT TRAINING CONTINUED...

Made to fall into a pond
Whoa!
Actually, no, it was a pool.
You the one that threw me?!
Mixing it up with yakuza
...and more!
IT SEEMED MORE LIKE CRUEL PUNISHMENT
AGUMA-SAN!
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

WHY DID SHE KICK YOU BEFORE, YUZUKO-CHAN?
Jeez, that woman's a pain! Mutter... mutter...
An example of the usefulness of animal costumes:
IF SHE FINDS ME, SHE'LL BUG THE HECK OUT OF ME, SO I'M WEARING THIS AS CAMOUFLAGE!
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T DEAL WITH HER!
Where's Nabeshima-san?
I don't know!
I SUSPECT IT'S BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS WITH NABESHIMA-SAN...
GROAN
HEY, AGUMA-SAN...
WHAT?!

IT'S NOT...
...THAT SIMPLE!
KYOYUGI
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR REGULAR WORK UNIFORM!
WATER GUN CATALOGUE
PLEASE RETURN BOOKS
.....?

OUT!
OUT!
Don't thank just throw!
Okay.
ENOUGH CHITCHAT! YOU'RE NOT DONE UNTIL YOU GIVE ME THREE BULLSEYES!!
SO THERE'S AT LEAST ONE OTHER PART-TIME WORKER BESIDES ME...
...and she's alive...
Crap!
PAUSE
COME ON, I NEED TO SEE SOME GOOD RESULTS!! IF NOT...
"IF NOT..."?
NABE-SHIMA-SAN WON'T COMPLI-MENT YOU?
THUMP
WHAT?

...tell you?
...SAME AS YOU.
NO, PART-TIME...
Didn't he...
ARE YOU A PULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF GSG?
HAH?
THE ASTONISHING TRUTH!!
I'M ALIVE!
WHAT?!
WHERE'S YOUR BODY?!
Astral Projecting
IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A BROKEN LEG.
I'M COACHING YOU HERE VIA ASTRAL PROJECTION! I've come all this way for your benefit...
HUH?
SO...DEAD PEOPLE CAN WORK THERE PART-TIME, TOO?
Toby's Loans Target practice
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
..."DEAD PEOPLE?"

...SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME...
CRUSHING DEFEAT
.....
I DID IT! THREE BULLSEYES!
Wahoo!
THE REASON...
...AGUMA-SAN...
RUSTLE
NOTHING, NOTHING! BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?!
My form may be sportish, but I can do physical damage!
DAMN...!
CHUCKLE
...IS BECAUSE...

BASH
Dang it! You made me lose my concentration!
...THAT'S RIGHT!
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO WORK FOR FREE, I HARDLY GET ANY WORK! About twice a year!
.....
THEY'VE USED ME QUITE A BIT...
NOW I GET IT...
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
WHAP
WH
THREE OR FOUR TIMES SINCE I JOINED THIS YEAR

OH, WELL, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT. WITH THIS LION SUIT ON, SHE WON'T KNOW IT'S ME!
HEY, NO FAIR!!
SIX...
...THEN SHE'S THERE.
EH? WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
LET'S GO!
STOP CRYING! WHAT'S THE NAME ON THE LIST?
TAKANE PARK

ZAA
...I THINK I FIGURED OUT A TRICK FOR GETTING CONTROL OF MY BODY BACK...
ZAA
!
WHAT?

FLIP
HUH?
OUR NEXT STOP IS TAKANE PARK.
Where we always meet En-chan...

WE'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
SHUDDER
HUH?
NABE...
WHACK
I JUST FIGURE THAT HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS, IS ALL...
You're a nice guy
ARE YOU TARO HOTTA?
SHIVER
SHIT
NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M KAMAMOTO!
IF YOU CALL OUT MY NAME, IT BLOWS MY WHOLE GAME!
Stay on guard and I'll save you!
YEAH, NOW I GET IT...
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
KAMA-MOTO-SAN...
IS NABE-SHIMA-SAN ON VACATION?
Ohhh, I see!

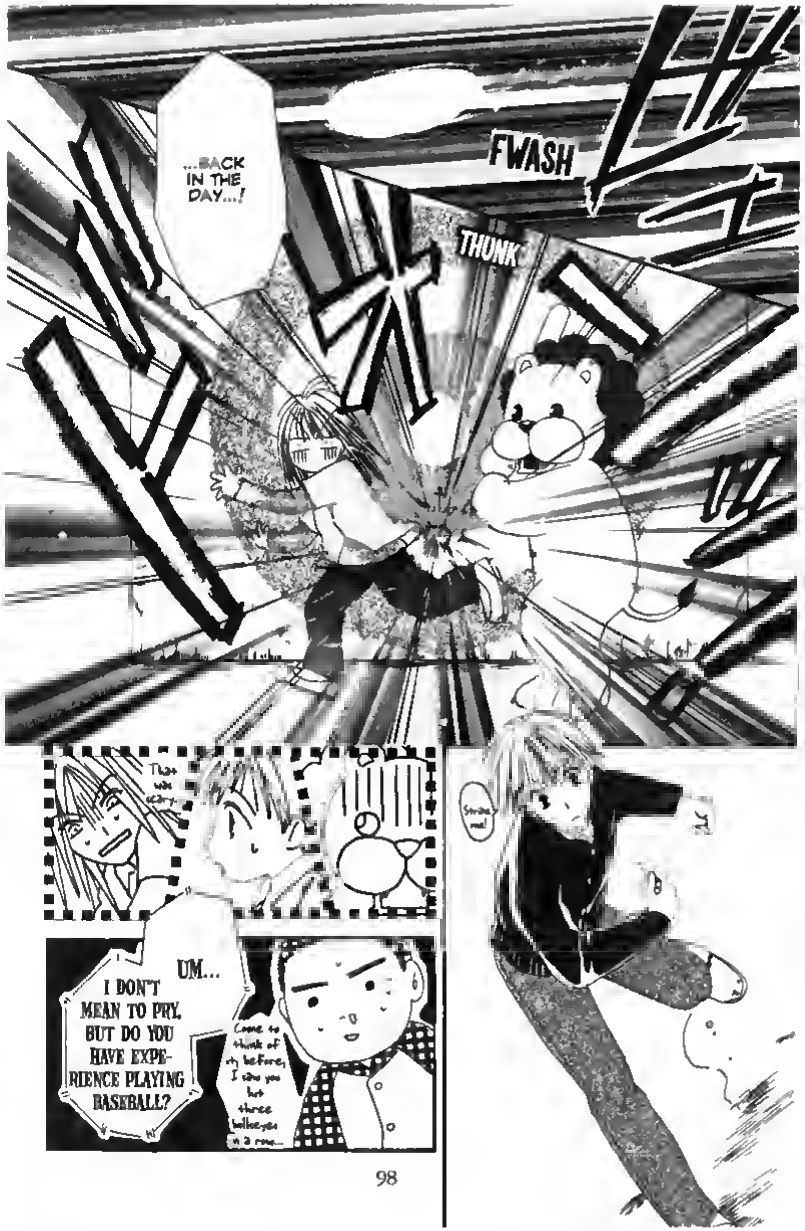
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, JUST BY CHANCE, I HEARD YOU TWO TALKING...
WOW!
WHO IS HE?
HE WAS TRYING TO GET INSIDE OF YOU...
ASK HIM THAT!
Waaa!
You little creep!!
OKAY, OKAY!
"BORROW HIS BODY?!" YOU MEAN HIJACK IT, DON'T YOU?!
I'm sorry!
GULP
IDIOT! YOU GET ANGRY!!
ROAR
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT BUT... I AM ANGRY!
I THOUGHT IF...I COULD JUST BORROW YOUR BODY...

I-I JUST WANTED TO...
SOB
EVERYONE ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT I WAS UNPREPARED!
WAAA!
...GET ONE SHOT AT PITCHING IN A REAL BASEBALL GAME.
Like you before!
BY USING MY BODY?
AWWW...
I GUESS WE ALMOST HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE...
HMM.
BUT... YOU WANT TO PLAY IN AN ACTUAL GAME RIGHT? SO WHO ARE THE OTHER PLAYERS?
AH!
UNPRE-PARED

GLARE
SNIFFLE
I WAS ON MY SCHOOL'S BASEBALL TEAM...
...JUST AS A RESERVE PLAYER, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS GOING TO BE PUT ON THE BENCH.
Good for you, Taro
EXCEPT ON THE WAY TO THAT GAME, A CAR RAN ME OVER...
WHAM
Eh?! No! Not now!
Groan... Somebody...
THE EVIL EYE
SO... WHY ARE YOU STILL HANGING AROUND, HOTTA-KUN?
UM... ACTU-ALLY...

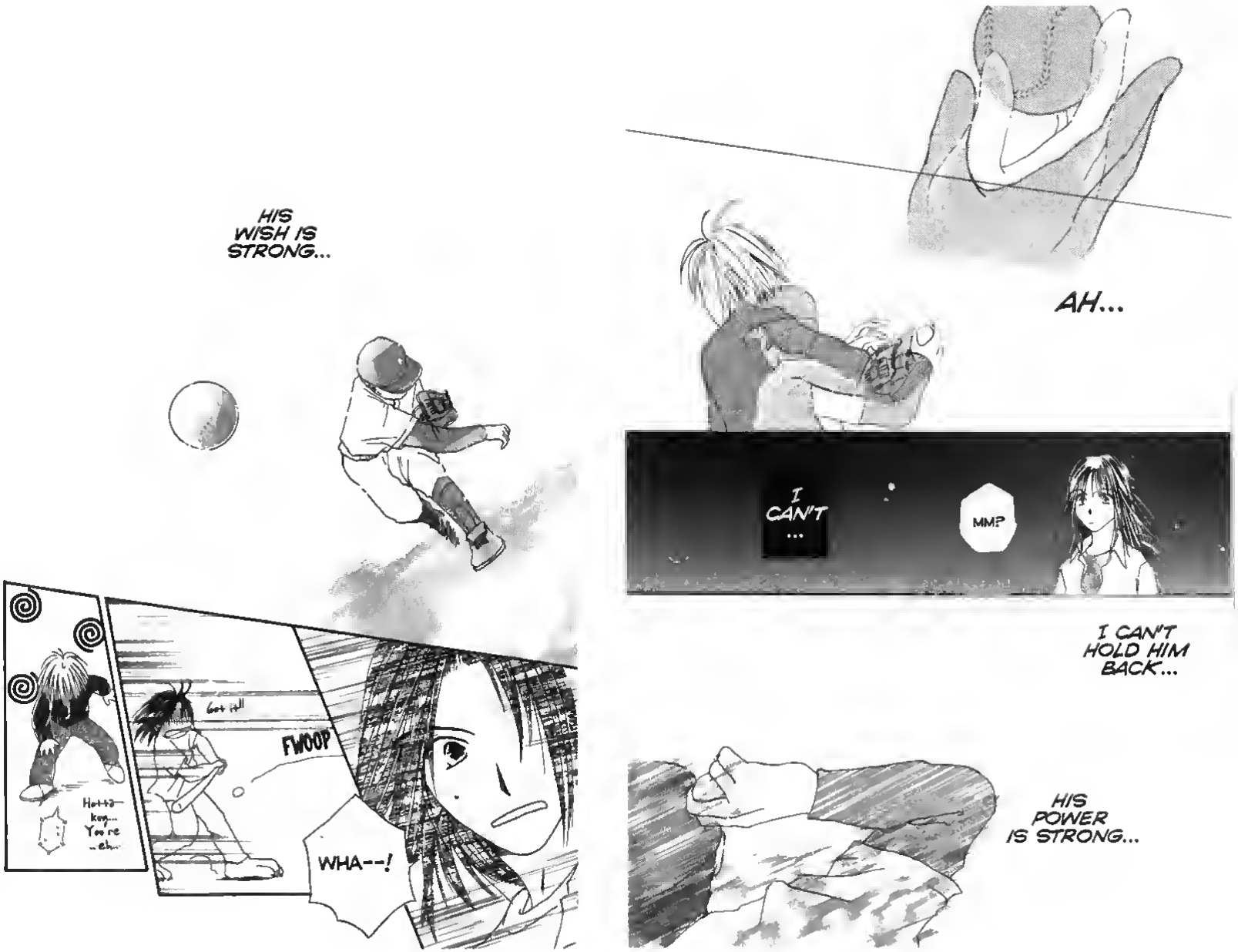
SO IT'S GONNA BE ME PITCHING.
YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
OH
IF WE'RE DOING THIS SERIOUSLY, I'M NOT GONNA HOLD OUT ON YOU NOW!
I WARN YOU, THEY CALLED ME THE SECOND COMING OF BABE RUTH...
HAHAHA HAHA
Exactly like in all women's hotels.
...YEAH.
One out decides the whole game!! Let's play ball!
He good at batting so that's the umpire.
Kinda hard to swing that thing.
I want results!
...OKAY, OKAY.
LET'S PRACTICE!! 'CAUSE IF YOU SCREW UP AND EMBARRASS ME ..
...YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!!
I tried to find more players but nobody was around, so we'll have to make do
What about gloves?
some kid drafted into playing
OH YEAH SORRY, HOTTA-KUN ..
...BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE CONTROL OF MY BODY WHEN YOU'RE INSIDE ME.
Uwaaa! It's been a long time!

KAMA-MOTO-SAN?
!!
BUT WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, MY TEAM PLAYED IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIPS.
MMM... JUST A LITTLE.
Only elementary and junior high school...
GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
EH?!
You took it off?
I KNOW...!
FWAP
THAT'S IT!!
FWAP

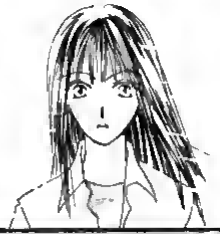

...BACK IN THE DAY...!
FWASH
THUNK
UM... I DON'T MEAN TO PRY, BUT DO YOU HAVE EXPE-RIENCE PLAYING BASEBALL?
Come to think of it, I threw you but three bullseyes in a row...

GONG
FOUL!
ALL RIGHT, GIMME YOUR BEST PITCH!!
OSHAAA!
H-HE'S SO COOL!
BLUSH
KRAK
FWASH
JUST ONE MORE...
Dang it!!
JUST...!
...ONE MORE...

NABE-SHIMA-SAN?!
WHY DID YOU PRETEND TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE UP TILL N--
SHUT UP!
...THIS IS BEING CHILDISH, BUT SCREW IT!
Tch!
N...
NA...
EVERYTHING ELSE CAN WAIT TILL AFTER!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A SERIOUS GAME HERE.


HIS WISH IS STRONG...
Got it!
FWOOP
WHA--!
Hatta-kay... You're -eh...
AH...
I CAN'T ...
MM?
I CAN'T HOLD HIM BACK...
HIS POWER IS STRONG...

THE WINNING BALL...
...HOTTA -KUN.



WHAT HE'S DOING IS DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
SO WHY, EVEN WITH HIS GLARING WEAKNESSES, DO YOU STICK WITH HIM, NABESHIMA -SAN?
That went way high!
Good luck!

smoke break
...WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?

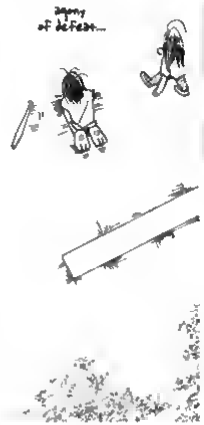
ROAR
MORON!!
WHY'D YOU GO AND LET YOURSELF BE TAKEN OVER?!
Do you realize how that makes me look?!

WAIT A MINUTE.
NOW HURRY UP AND SWITCH BACK TO...
What? What?

LET HIM...
...GET THE BALL.

WHACK

POP FLY!

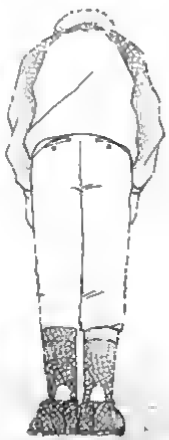

The agony of defeat...

THE UNPREPARED TARO HOTTA
WHAP
DOP
DOP

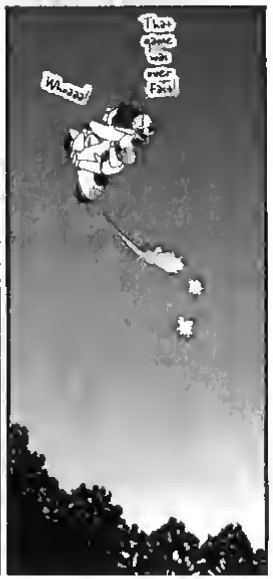
CHUCKLE
WHY?
I'M EXPLOITING HIS INNATE KINDNESS.

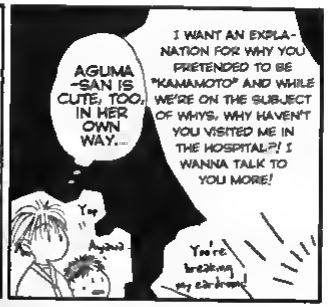
SNIFF
I'M SORRY...
...FOR BEING SO SELFISH.
FAST!!
WELL, I'VE GOT PLACES TO GO!
WHAT?! YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!
Wait a second! You're gonna let him off that easily?!
AHH, YOU'RE CUTE, SO WE FORGIVE YOU!
Huh?

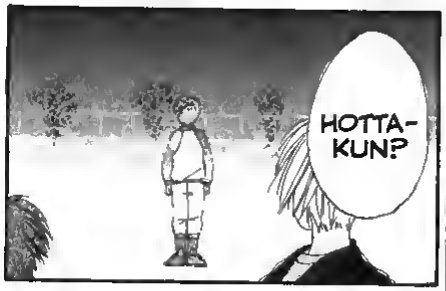
Back, back, back...

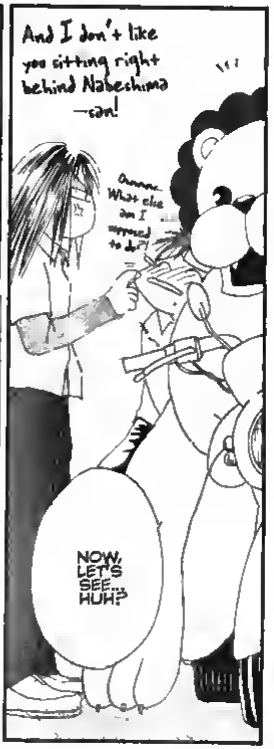


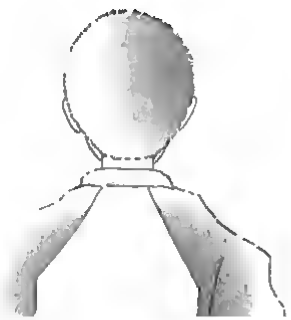
WHETHER ALIVE OR DEAD...




AGUMA-SAN IS CUTE, TOO, IN HER OWN WAY...
I WANT AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY YOU PRETENDED TO BE "KAMAMOTO" AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF WHYS, WHY HAVEN'T YOU VISITED ME IN THE HOSPITAL?! I WANNA TALK TO YOU MORE!
Yu
Aguma
You're breaking my eardrum!





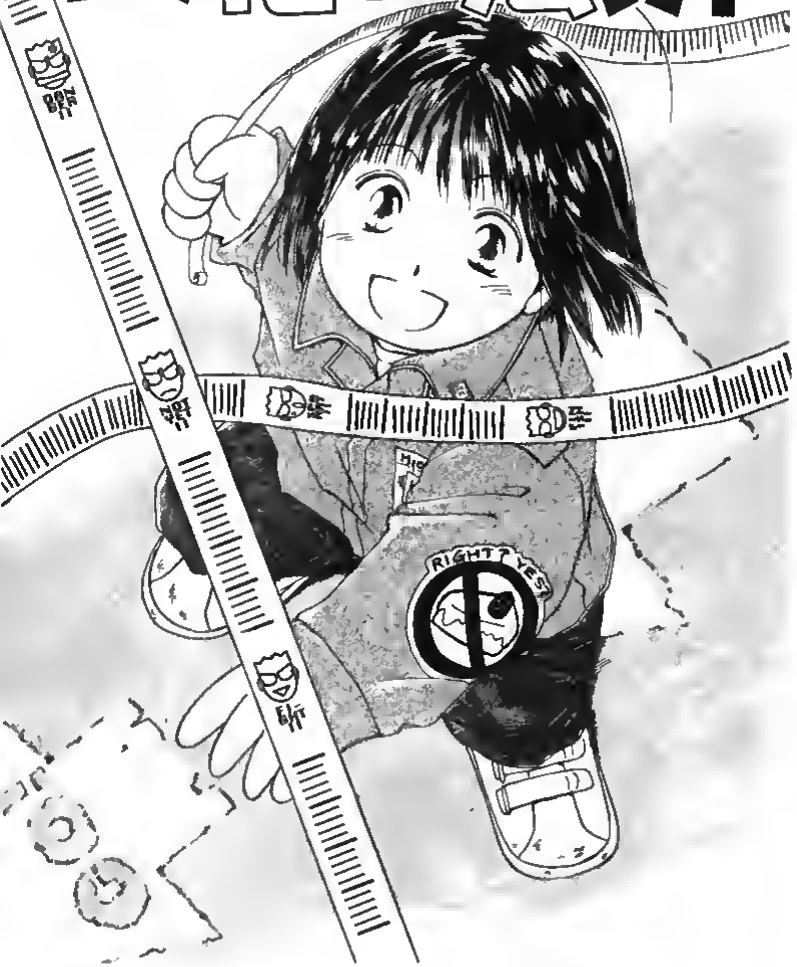


I work part-time! Don't saddle me with full-time work!!
I THINK SENDING YOU OUT IN THE FIELD ALONE IS TOO RISKY.
I want to increase our efficiency but...
RUSTLE
...I DID FIND OUT THAT IF SOMEONE TAKES ME OVER, I CAN QUICKLY REGAIN CONTROL IF THE GHOST SOMEHOW LOSES FOCUS.
You just need to find an opening!
Crack
WE ALREADY KNEW THAT!
Last time
NABESHIMA-SAN, I'M BAAACK!! SO YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME WORK! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
She scared the daylights out of me!
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
Jeez, this girl is strong!
WHAP
RIGHT NOW, I DON'T HAVE ANY W--
GET OFFA ME, YOU PAIN IN THE NECK!!!

...HAS ONE STRONG WISH.
BUT YOU KNOW, IF YOU HANG AROUND WITH ME THE CHANCES OF MEETING NABESHIMA GO WAY UP!
URK...
MMM...
SO THE SPECIAL TRAINING WAS JUST A WASTE OF TIME
WELL... BUT...
CREAK

THE LAW OF CHANGE

変化の法則



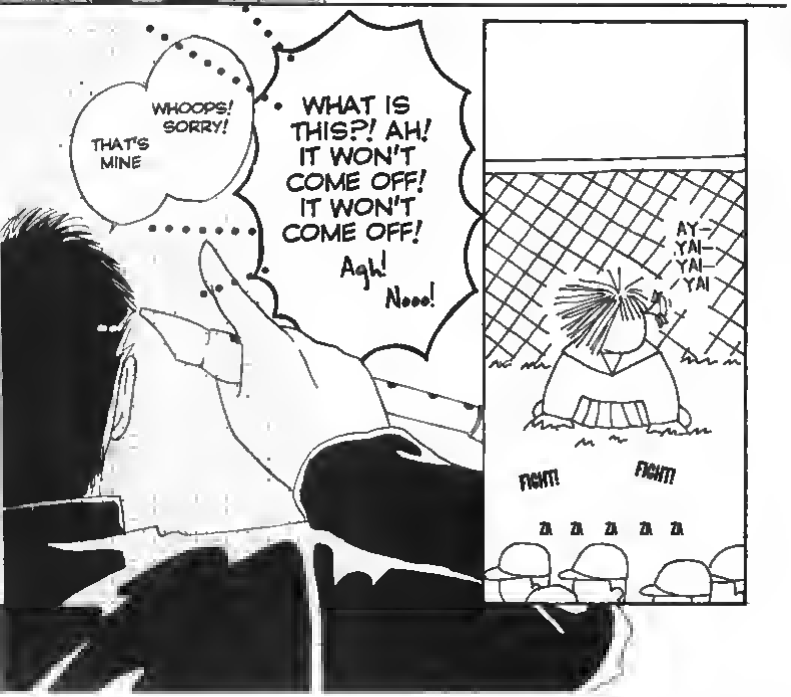
AGUMA!
FROM NOW ON, YOUR JOB IS...
...SUPPORTING EN-CHAN!!
SETTLED
決定
MADOKA TSUTSUMI, PART-TIME WORKER FOR GSG...
...HAS JUST GOTTEN ONE CUTE BUT REALLY STRONG PARTNER.
Please...
...PLEASE, PLEASE, LET HER BE NICE TO ME...
I'm scared! I'm scared!
As soon as my leg finishes healing up...!!
ぎゅっ
YESS!!
NOW I GET TO MEET NABESHIMA-SAN AND POUND THE GUY I HATE WHENEVER I WANT!!

OMUKAE DESU VOL. 1 END

...SHIAN.
WHAT
I'M 16 AND A LITTLE ON THE HEAVY SIDE.
Aaah, I'm hungry!
RUMBLE
I'M 16 AND A LITTLE ON THE HEAVY SIDE.
NOT EVERY-ONE'S AS NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL AS YOU, CHAGA-HARA!
Sigh... You've got it made!
...THAT YOU BABY YOURSELF!
IN COMPARISON, WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT YOU? HONESTLY...
LISTEN, I WOULDN'T BE EVEN CLOSE WITHOUT CONSTANTLY POLISHING UP THE RAW MATERIAL NATURE GAVE ME!
YOU REALLY THINK I GOT TO BE THIS BEAU-TIFUL WITHOUT ANY EFFORT?
I'M 16 AND
GONG
GONG
GONG

...THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT YOU WOULD SURVIVE.
FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN IF A NEW ICE AGE SUDDENLY HIT RIGHT NOW...
AS ALWAYS, YOU'VE STOCKED YOURSELF UP TO 120%...
...RIGHT, SHIAN?
I'M SHIAN NAGASAKA.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A "CAMEL?!" CAMELS ARE CUTE! You wish you were a camel!
DON'T TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M A CAMEL!
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP

WHIZZZ
?
WHAT'S THAT SOUND...
SPLOT


WHOOPS! SORRY!
THAT'S MINE
WHAT IS THIS?! AH! IT WON'T COME OFF! IT WON'T COME OFF!
Agh!
Nooo!
AY—YAI—YAI—YAI
FIGHT!
FIGHT!

AWWW! WHAT A CUTE WITTLE BABY-FACE!

WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH

IS THIS IT? WHEN I SAY "OH, WELL." AM I BABY-ING MYSELF?
Why couldn't I have said some-thing like, "I'm not going to lose to you, Mr. Sun?!"
HUH?
TWEEEET

WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
GRR
GRR
GRR

WAAH
WAAH
WAAH
...OH, WELL.
HOW NICE!

OWOW
OWOW
OW!
SHED
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MYSTERIES
I see
OH.
ALRIGHT, FOLLOW ME!
WHY DIDN'T WE TRY THAT FIRST?!
LIGHTLY
IF I USE CHEMICALS, IT'LL COME RIGHT OFF!
OWW!
OWW!
WHY WON'T THIS COME OFF?!
PULL
PULL
PULL
HMMM... THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING!
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING DEVICES
Spare Parts

DO YOU KNOW HOW I GOT IT TO FLY?
THAT.
...NO.
HEY!
SEE YA!
NO, NOT "SEE YA!" GET THIS THING OFF ME!!
THANK YOU!!
SPIN
UM... EXCUSE ME...
YAHOO!
WITH MY INVENTION, THE RECORDER BLOWGUN!!

ACTUALLY, I'VE TAKEN GREAT INTEREST IN THAT SUBJECT RECENTLY...
...AND HAVE DEVELOPED A PROGRAM THAT NEEDS TO BE TESTED
RUSTLE
The diet industry is making a killing!

AIM FOR EASY STREET!!
THEN, WITH ALL THE MONEY I RAKE IN, I CAN DO RESEARCH TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!!
HA HA HA HA HA
You're only thinking about yourself!
...um, yeah, maybe that's how it will eventually turn out...

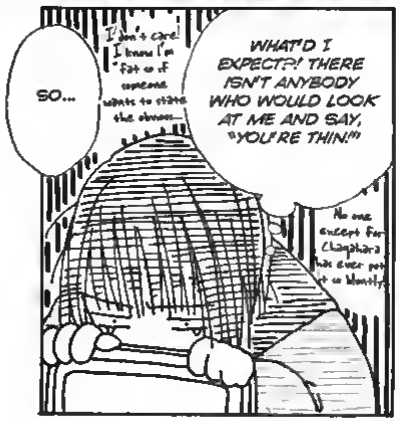
SO WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS PUT YOU ON MY PROGRAM AND MONITOR YOU FOR TWO MONTHS.
THEN, IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, I GET A PATENT...
WHY NOT TRY IT? KACHO'S DIET!
WEIGHT DOWN AND HAPPINESS LIFE!!
SIZE DOWN!! AND NICE BODY!!
こんなに
CAN YOU CHANGE THIS MUCH?
BIGNE

...UH-HUH.
STILL, I'VE GOT THE RUN OF THE PLACE HERE, SO IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO USE IT.
AL-THOUGH ALL OF THE OTHER MEMBERS HAVE FLOWN THE COOP.
Making blowguns and stuff like that?
BY THE WAY, I SEE THAT YOU'RE FAT.

Didn't you see the sign on the door?
THIS IS THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MYSTERIES...
...AND I'M KAICHO* (*CLUB PRESIDENT)...

そんなにサラッと
...HE JUST CAME RIGHT OUT AND SAID IT!
LET IT GO!
GOT IT!
ながさわちゃ
何もいえない
CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THAT

...DON'T YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT?


SO...
I don't care! I know I'm fat as if anyone wants to state the obvious...
WHAT'D I EXPECT?! THERE ISN'T ANYBODY WHO WOULD LOOK AT ME AND SAY, "YOU'RE THIN!"
No one except for (laughter) has ever put it so bluntly.

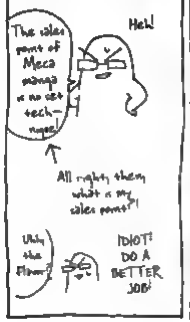
Hardly Working

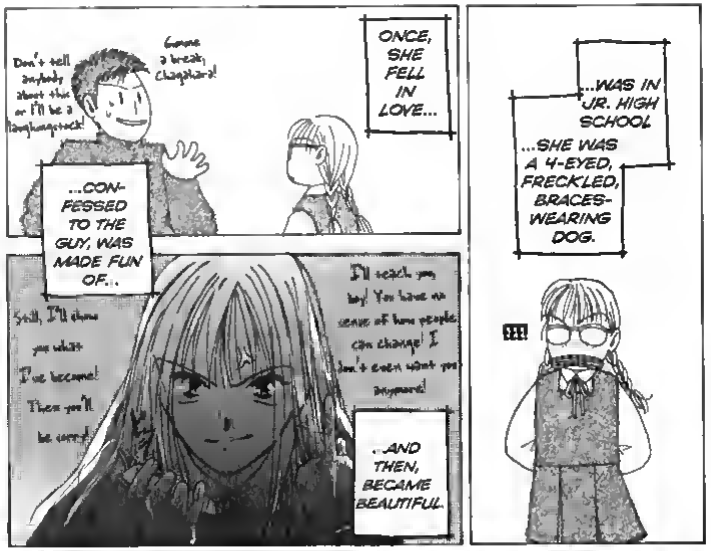
I'm the type of person who if I say I'm gonna do something, I do it, so if I promise to get something done by such and such a day, the work will be finished by that day. The only problem is that I get so wrapped up in finishing by that day that the quality is liable to drop.

Isn't that terrible?!

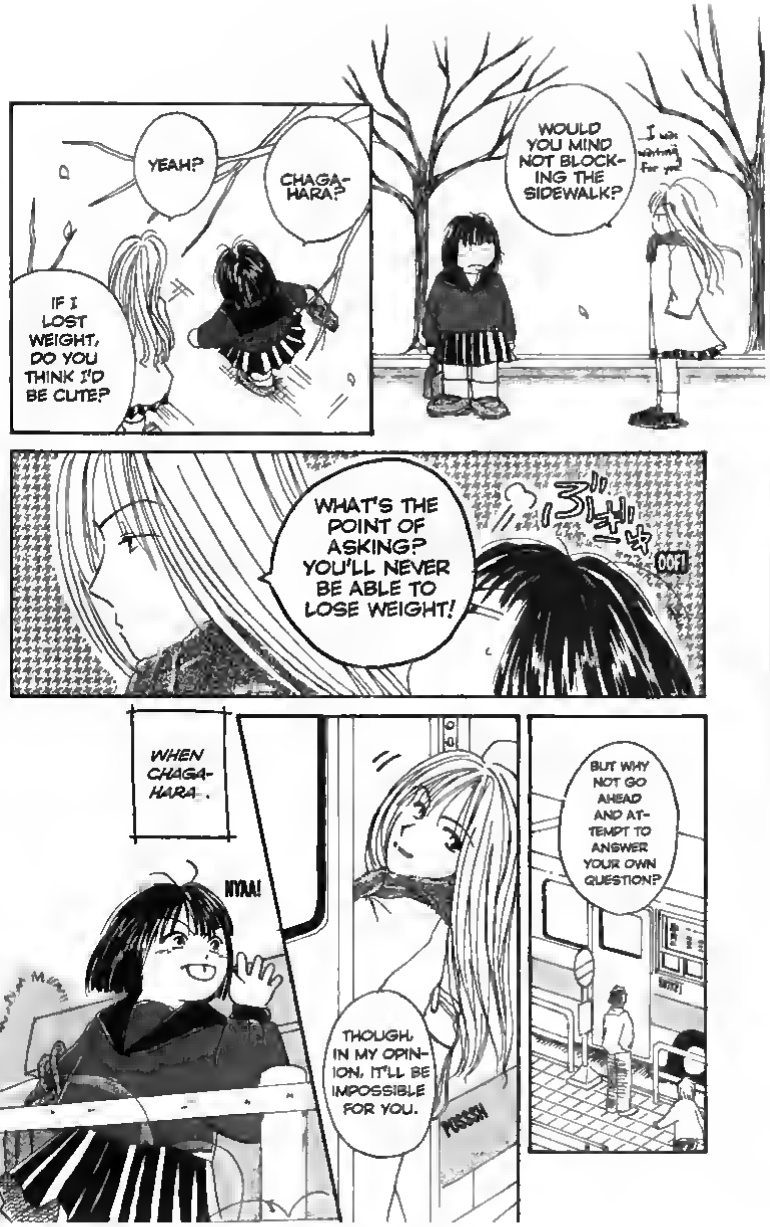
That's what I have to work on the most.

I've always been really slapdash in general, so for example, if I've got just the outline for a story, I'm quick to jump in and spoil myself with thoughts like "Yeah, that'll do" and "Good enough for me"...


The sales point of Meca manga is no sex techniques!
Heh!
All right, then, what is my sales point?!
Uhh, the flowers?
IDIOT! DO A BETTER JOB!


Don't tell anybody about this or I'll be a laughingstock!
Gawww, a break, Chagahara!
ONCE, SHE FELL IN LOVE...
...CONFESSED TO THE GUY, WAS MADE FUN OF...
...WAS IN JR. HIGH SCHOOL
...SHE WAS A 4-EYED, FRECKLED, BRACES-WEARING DOG.
Still, I'll show you what I've become! Then you'll be sorry!
I'll teach you boy! You have no sense of how people can change! I don't even want you anymore!
...AND THEN, BECAME BEAUTIFUL.
EEE!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, IN THE END...
OH, WELL...
Might as well go home!
No way!
THE WELL-SPRING OF POWER IS A GOOD GRUDGE.
Too bad!
HO HO HO HO HO!
...I'M THE TYPE THAT DOESN'T CARRY A GRUDGE FOR LONG.
What happened last time?
I'm sorry about last time!
AS FOR ME...


YEAH?
CHAGA-HARA?
IF I LOST WEIGHT, DO YOU THINK I'D BE CUTE?
WOULD YOU MIND NOT BLOCKING THE SIDEWALK?
I was waiting for you.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ASKING? YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LOSE WEIGHT!
OOF!
WHEN CHAGA-HARA...
NYAA!
THOUGH, IN MY OPINION, IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
POOSH!
BUT WHY NOT GO AHEAD AND ATTEMPT TO ANSWER YOUR OWN QUESTION?

YES!
ARE YOU STILL WITH ME?
BUT YOU NEED TO PUT IN A SOLID EFFORT, TOO!
WHIRRRR
OH, IT'S ADORABLE!
AGATHA III
THIS IS MY DIET SUPPORTER, STILL IN THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE.
THEN WE'LL BEGIN.
AGATHA D-III!!
Good answer!
DIET PROGRAM START
EVERY DAY AFTER SCHOOL, PLEASE EAT ONLY THE MEAL THAT'S DECIDED FOR YOU.
IF YOU SLACK OFF OR CHEAT...
BEEP
THE CONCLUSION THAT I'VE DRAWN IS YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO NEEDS A KICK IN THE ASS TO GET YOU MOVING.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY YOU FILLED OUT EARLIER.
Ah! I kind of expected
NOW, I'VE ENTERED ALL OF YOUR DATA INTO THE SUPPORTER.

IF YOU LOSE WEIGHT, I THINK YOU'LL TURN OUT TO BE REALLY CUTE!
AND YET...
...I THINK I'M JUST THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN'T LOSE WEIGHT.
.....
Sometimes I wonder if she's really our child.
How did she get so fat?
We raised her normally...
Soup Bowl
KAICHO NEVER LIES!
REALLY?
I'LL EAT FROM A REGULAR RICE BOWL.
CLINK
We need to get more nettuna!
What?! Shiina, what's wrong?!

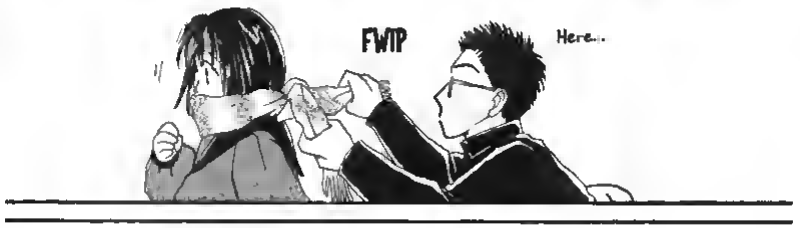
IF YOU DON'T GO THIS FAR, IT'S NOT GONNA WORK
YOUR BODY TELLS THE TALE BETTER THAN ANY-THING ELSE
That's hard!
.....
STUPID QUESTION.
GONG
EVERYONE HAS THAT POWER, AT LEAST.
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
AND I BELIEVE IT'S TRUE.
...PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT IF YOU SET YOUR MIND TO SOMETHING, YOU CAN DO IT.

RO OOAA'R
ZZZZ
CRACK
KRAK
KACHA
SNAP
...AGATHA WILL PUNISH YOU.
CHAK
AGATHA !!!
WEEE
HUHUHU
AGATHA !!!
ULP!!!!!!!
It's got a blade!! And a that a gun!?
SIGHHH... DO I REALLY..
PULL
PULL
Heh...
What a that thing?
...TO LOSE WEIGHT?
Aieee!
DASH DASH DASH DASH DASH
...PUSHED THIS FAR...
GROAN... I'm pooped...
BEEEEEEEEEP
YOGA
STRETCH
...HAVE TO BE .
JUMPROPE
MUSCLE
DUMBBELLS
yoo
I know!
STICK WITH IT!
GYM

Want me to share some with you?
HAHAHA
WELL, THE THING OF IT IS, I'VE GOT PASSION FOR WHATEVER I DO!
HAHAHA! WELL, I'D BETTER BE GOING...
THIS MUST BE LIKE...
...YOUR ALTER EGO.
WHIRR
I FEEL LIKE...
WHIRR
Good job today! Have a treat. Kaicho
...I GOT TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE KAICHO'S HEAD!
CHUCKLE
It's big enough!
LOW CALORIE
MM?
WHIR

BUT TO BRING IT INTO PLAY, WELL, THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR FEELINGS.
SO TELL ME...
...WHAT CONTROLS YOUR FEELINGS?
...AH.
...BECAUSE SOMETHING WAS LACKING, SOME ELEMENT THAT WOULD GIVE YOU THE DRIVE TO LOSE WEIGHT!
AGATHA'S PURPOSE IS TO MAKE UP FOR THAT DEFICIENCY.
AGATHA III
YOU COULDN'T LOSE WEIGHT BEFORE...

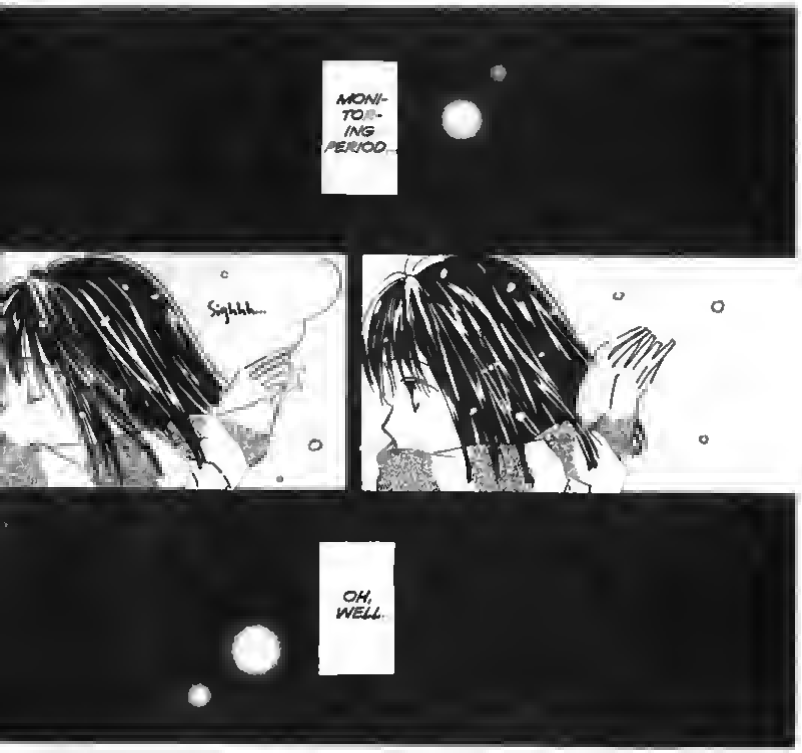
YOU'RE FAT'S MELTING AWAY, SO YOU FEEL COLD MORE EASILY...


FWIP
Here...

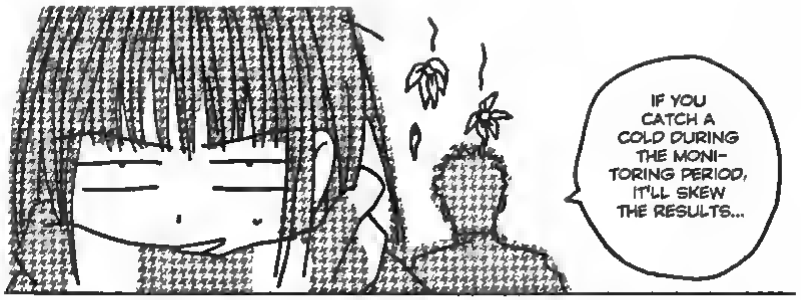
SCOOT
SCOOT
chair with wheels
He could hear me after all?
UM... TH-TH-THANK YOU.
NOT AT ALL.

I'm not slacking off! You could've killed me!
I made it myself!
Way to forsaken!
...BUT I REALLY THINK HE'S MUCH MORE THAN..
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SAY THAT HE'S "NORMAL", SINCE ALL OF HIS INVENTIONS ARE DANGEROUS—

WEIGHT -10kg
Guess you can't hear me...
IT'S STARTED SNOWING SO I'M GONNA GO HOME.
HEY, KAICHO!
...JUST SOME WEIRDO.
A MONTH LATER
KAICHO...
TAP TAP TAP
TAP...
FSHOOO
BRR! It's cold!

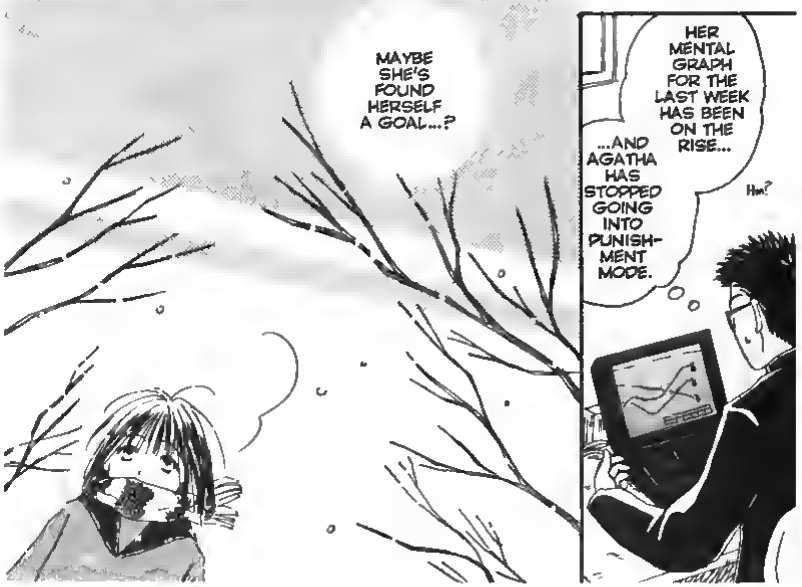

MONI-
TOR-
ING
PERIOD...
Sighhh...
OH,
WELL.

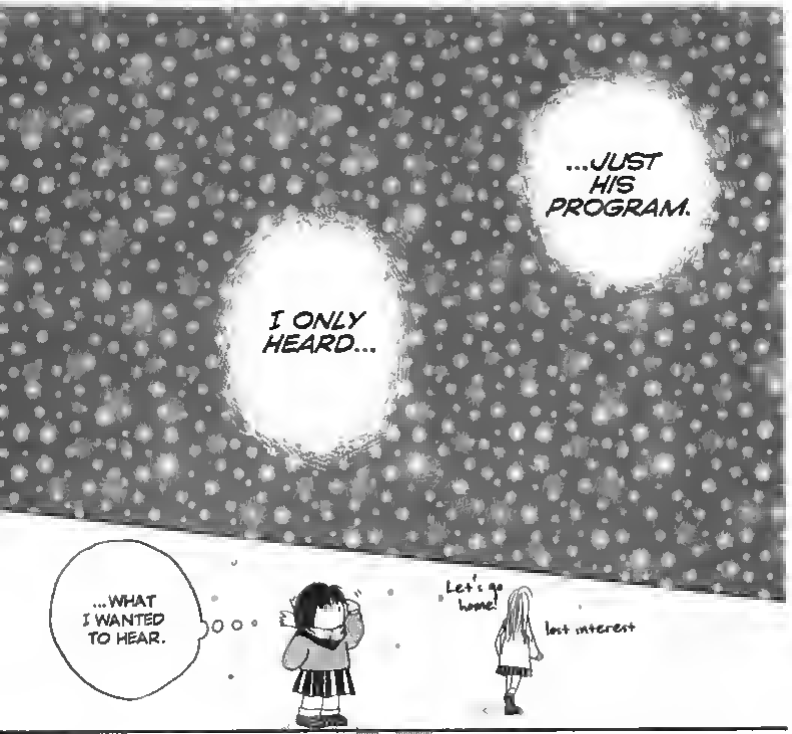
Hmm...
Your scent is real strongly...
Hmph!
NOT EVEN REMOTELY!
OH, REALLY? I COULD'VE SWORN I SMELLED SOMETHING ON YOUR BREATH WHEN YOU SIGHED...
DOES YOUR WEIGHT LOSS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ANXIETY OVER A BOY?


IF YOU CATCH A COLD DURING THE MONI-TORING PERIOD, IT'LL SKEW THE RESULTS...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE...
RATTLE
RATTLE

...SO WATCH OVER YOUR HEALTH CARE-FULLY!!
I WILL! GOODBYE!

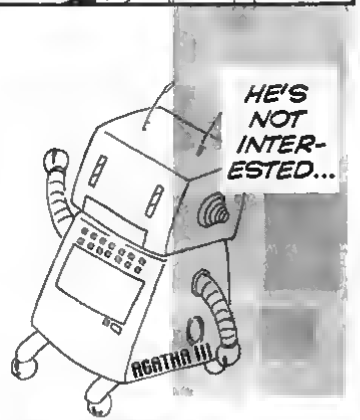

MAYBE SHE'S FOUND HERSELF A GOAL...?
HER MENTAL GRAPH FOR THE LAST WEEK HAS BEEN ON THE RISE...
...AND AGATHA HAS STOPPED GOING INTO PUNISH-MENT MODE.
Hm?


...JUST HIS PROGRAM.
I ONLY HEARD...
...WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.
Let's go home!
lost interest

OH, WELL.

WELL, NATURALLY!
OH, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?! YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT YOURSELF!
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME WHEN I'M OFFERING TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
HEE HEE HEE

WAIT ONE SECOND!
YANK


HE'S NOT INTERESTED...
AGATHA III

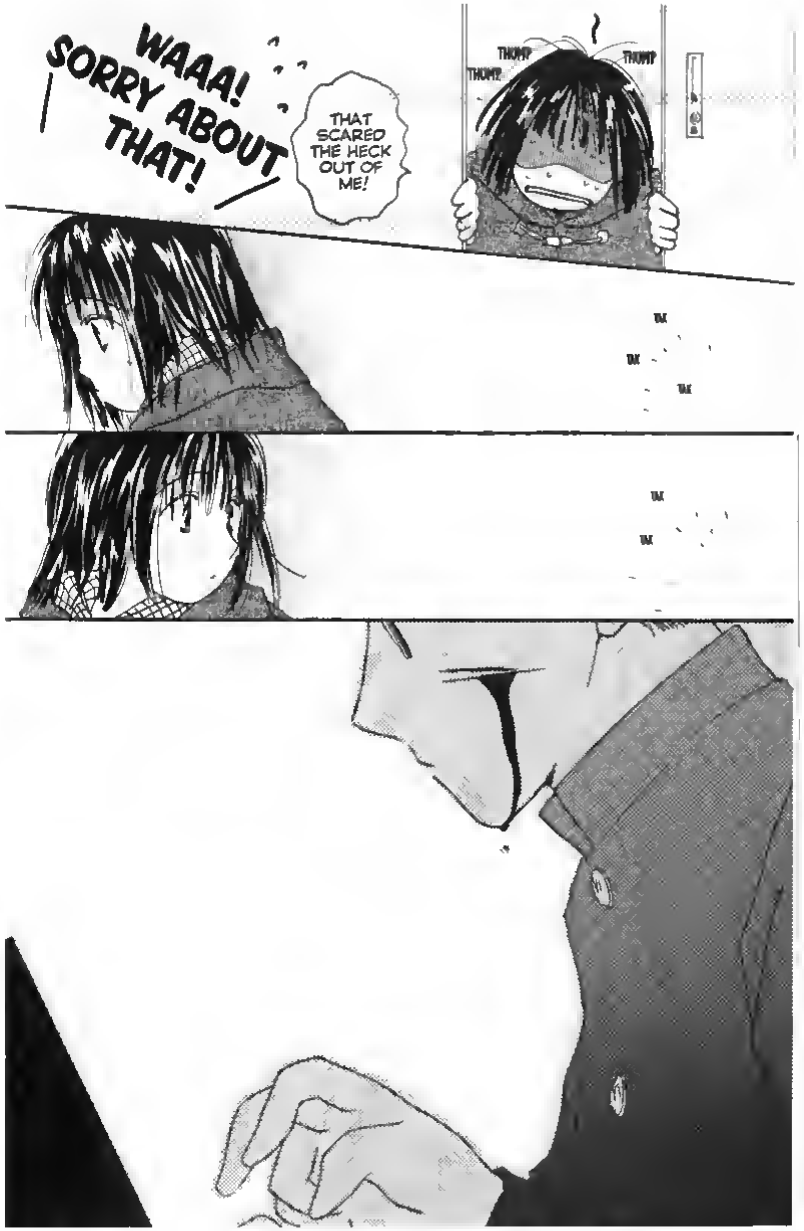
...IN ME...

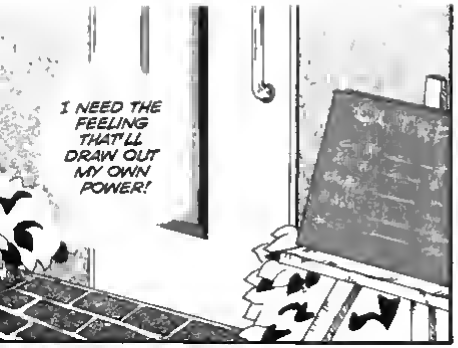
...ANYWAY, YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE.

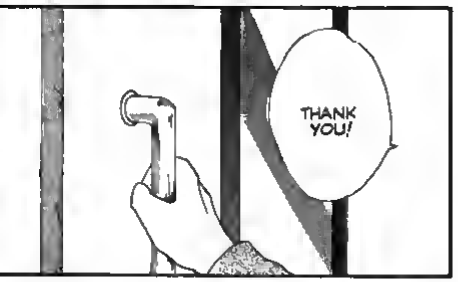
HUH?
KRASSSHH
...TO LOOK AT ME.

RATTLE
RAT-TLE
HI...
BUT EVEN SO, I KEEP THINK-ING.
HEY! HEY!
KNOCK KNOCK
NO RESPONSE, AS EXPECTED.
STARE
...ABOUT HOW I CAN GET THIS GUY...
...WHO DOESN'T NOTICE ANYTHING...
SHED
Geez. I'll go home...
RATS!
SOCIET FOR TH STUDY O MYSTER
RAT-TLE
OH, NO! WATCH OUT!!
Again?!
MAN-NERS
IMAGI-NATION

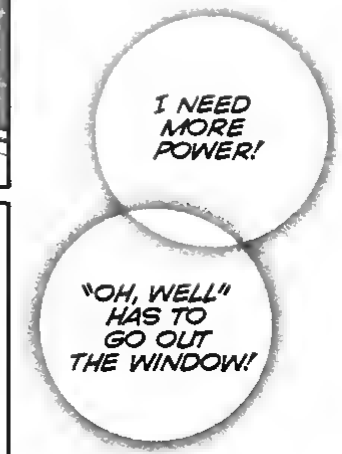
NO WAY...
...HE DOESN'T NOTICE?
SCRATCH
SPLISH
I'LL NEED SOME-THING REALLY POWER-FUL...
AH! NAGA-SAKA-KUN!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
Ah! I'm bleeding!

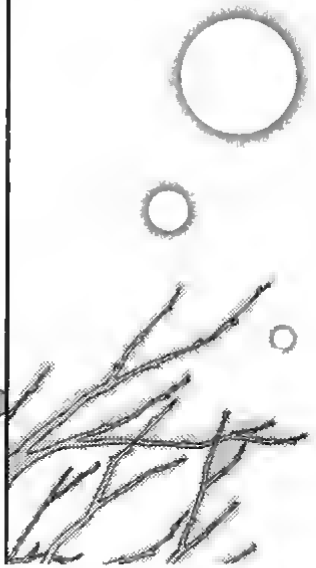

WAAA! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
THAT SCARED THE HECK OUT OF ME!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

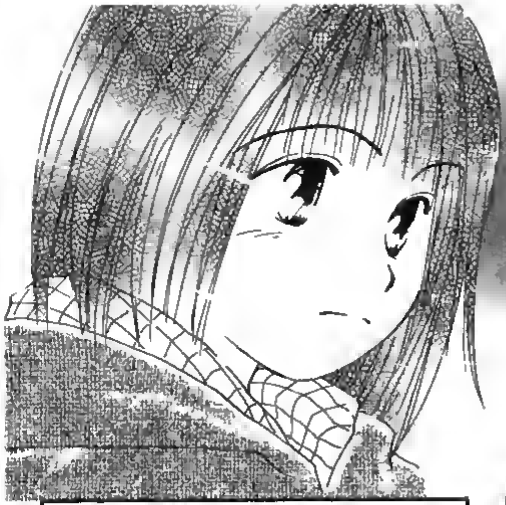

I NEED THE FEELING THAT'LL DRAW OUT MY OWN POWER!


THANK YOU!

BUT SOMEONE BESIDES ME...
...HAS TO CREATE THAT FEELING.


I NEED MORE POWER!
"OH, WELL" HAS TO GO OUT THE WINDOW!




...A LOT MORE POWERFUL THAN...

Unbelievable! Three stitches!
IS THAT THE "KAICHO" YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
YEP.

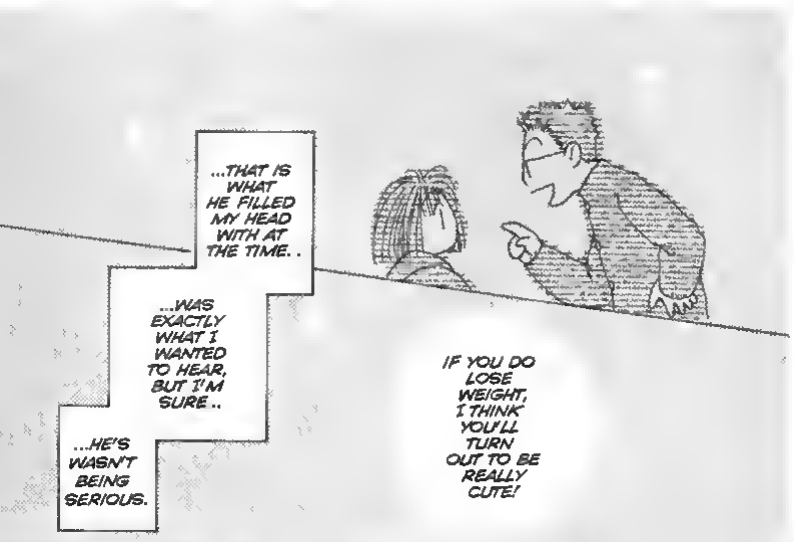
...HIS ATTENTION.
HE'S PLAIN!
YOU CAN'T TELL HOW AMAZING HE IS BY THE WAY HE LOOKS!
Hm? What's that supposed to mean?

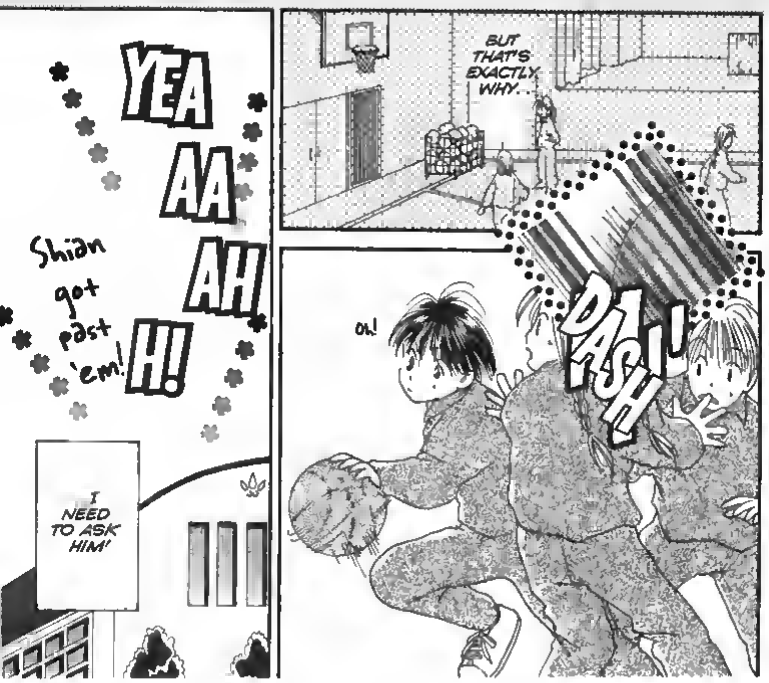
...SHATTERED GLASS...
...TO GET...
Kaicho has to go to the infirmary
CRRK
KR

WRONG! MY HEART'S JUST FINE! STOP TRYING TO JINX ME!
A BROKEN HEART?
WHAT'S BEHIND THE HAIRCUT?
WHAT?!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU AND THAT KAICHO ARE...
Honestly, you're impossible!
OH, PLEASE! COME ON, YOU WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO LOOK BETTER, SO DON'T WASTE IT!
!
EVERYTHING DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND LOOKS! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD GET IT, CHAGAHARA! IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS!
I WON'T ALLOW IT, YOU AND THAT HOMELY BOY!!
Leave me alone! You're scaring me!
You've gotta calm down!!

TWO MONTHS LATER
DIET PROGRAM IS FINISHED
GOOD MORNING, MY QUEEN!
HEY THERE, SLIM PRINCESS!
WOW, THESE NICKNAMES I'M GETTING!
Good morning
IT'S STILL COLD OUTSIDE!
JEEZ!
IF YOU GOT ANY SMALLER, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND YOU!
SIGHHH.. WHAT CAN I SAY?

THANKS TO C.YAMAMOTO(FORT.) & W.KAWASAKI(SYNC)


...THAT IS WHAT HE FILLED MY HEAD WITH AT THE TIME..
...WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, BUT I'M SURE..
...HE'S WASN'T BEING SERIOUS.
IF YOU DO LOSE WEIGHT, I THINK YOU'LL TURN OUT TO BE REALLY CUTE!


YEA AA AH H!
Shion got past 'em!
I NEED TO ASK HIM!
BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY..
oh!
DASH!

I JUST SAID YOU LOOK BETTER COMPARED TO BEFORE.
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
...TCH!
Ah! Look how you've become!
AM I CUTE?

I'VE BEEN SPENDING TIME WITH HIM FOR TWO MONTHS...
...AND I ALREADY KNOW...
AS FOR BEING "CUTE", I TOLD YOU BEFORE TO ANSWER THAT FOR YOURSELF.
...BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY. GO AHEAD AND ASK YOUR "KAICHO!"

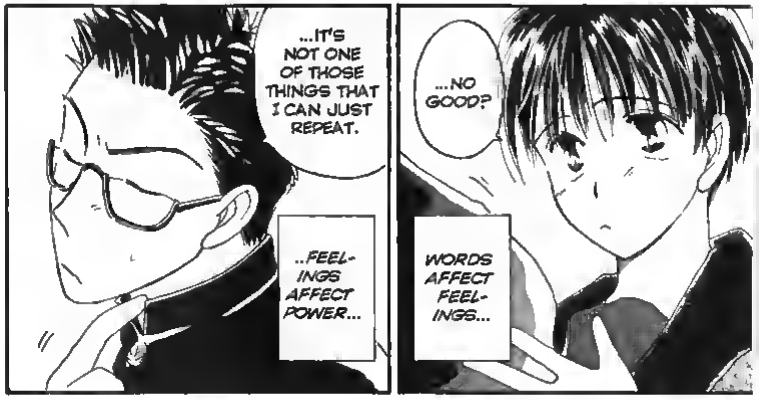
YOU!
LISTEN TO ME!!
IGNORING MODE
What kind of book was it? Um...
WAAAA
.....
KAICHO... AM I CUTE NOW?
I KNOW! I'LL DO A SIMULATION FIRST!
.....
SHIFT
?
I'M HAVING THE SAME PROBLEM AS BEFORE ...
YES, YOU'RE CUTE
Heh
Kind of Foolish Shion-san
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
Urk..
.....

I HAVE TO...
KAICHO!
K, I... M, I N... Hmm... Not here...
...TELL HIM.
KAICHO...
I HAVE TO TELL KAICHO.

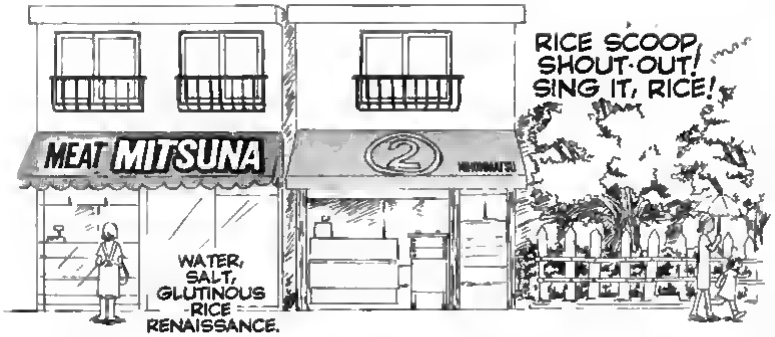
...AGAIN CLEARLY!
...SO LET ME HEAR IT...
OKAY!
I'M CLEAR!!
HEY!

PRECIOUS WORDS...
NO.
SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME.
KAI-CHO...
WHAT'S THE MAX-IMUM WEIGHT AGATHA CAN SUPPORT?
Darn it! I'm too short...
50 KG
...HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON FEEL-INGS...
I'M BUSY!
SAY IT!
Ah, this one!
PULL
PULL

...AND BECAUSE OF YOUR TRAINING, I'VE GOTTEN PHYSICALLY STRONGER!
SQUEEZE
...AND DRIBBLE REALLY WELL AT BASKETBALL..
SQUEEZE
...I COULD GET ON TOP OF AGATHA..
THANKS TO YOU...



THE LAW OF CHANGE: THE END


MEAT MITSUNA
RICE SCOOP, SHOUT-OUT! SING IT, RICE!
WATER, SALT, GLUTINOUS -RICE RENAISSANCE.

RED BEAN JAM, PACKED WITH SWEET LOVE!
YOU'VE NEVER HAD RED BEAN JAM LIKE NIHON-MATSU'S BEFORE!

ZIP IT!!
OHAGI* !!
* Ohagi: rice ball coated with red bean jam and soybean flour or sesame and salt
HE'S SENICHI NIHONMATSU, THE THIRD-GENERATION "HEIR" TO "NIHON-MATSU'S OHAGI!"
I'M GONNA BE THE NEXT OWNER HERE. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH SHOUTING AT ME, PART-TIMER?
EXCUSE ME?
It's not.
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE ME IF I QUIT BEFORE O-BON*?
SENICHI-SAN...
I'M HANEKO MIZUKI. I'VE WORKED HERE PART-TIME FOR GOING ON TWO YEARS NOW.
*Ohagi's peak sales season is the O-Bon holiday period in mid-August. Last year at that time, Nihonmatsu sold about 4,000 ohagi.

Letters

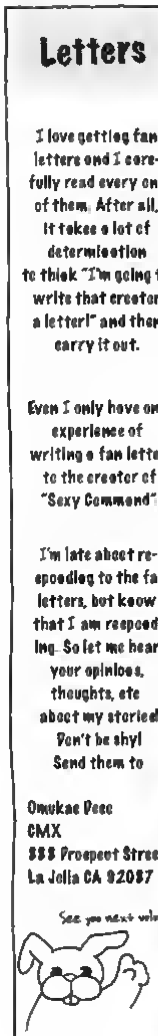
I love getting fan letters and I carefully read every one of them. After all, it takes a lot of determination to think "I'm going to write that creator a letter!" and then carry it out.

Even I only have one experience of writing a fan letter, to the creator of "Sexy Command".

I'm late about responding to the fan letters, but know that I am responding. So let me hear your opinions, thoughts, etc about my stories! Don't be shy! Send them to

Omukae Desu
CMX
888 Prospect Street
La Jolla CA 92037

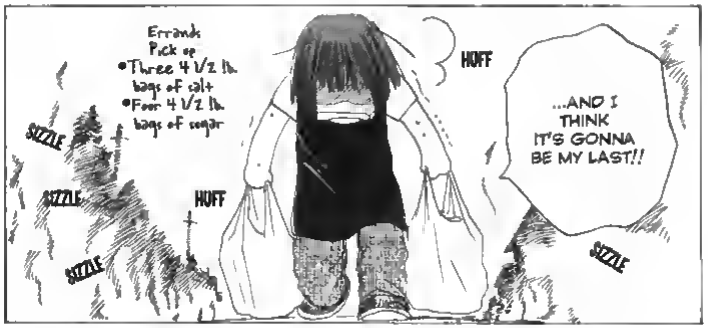
See you next volume!!



A cup
C cup's big enough!
ARE MATURE WOMEN SENICHI-SAN'S TYPE?
YEAH, I GUESS SO. THAT, AND HE'S A BOOB MAN.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
PAT
AS FOR ME, I PREFER GIRLS WITH SMALL CHESTS
Mmm...
I FIRST STARTED WORKING HERE IN THE SUMMER OF MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL...
...WHICH MEANS...
HUH I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THIS.
I LOVE YOU, TOO, HANE-CHAN!
I LOVE YOU, TENCHO!
Yupee!
15 years of being alone, after her wife left!
WHAT'S THE IDEA, POPS. YOU WANNA MAKE HANE-KO INTO MY MOTHER? GIMME A FRIGGIN' BREAK!
EWWW

SNATCH!
Hm.
AH! I...
...I REALLY DON'T KNOW YET!
SO, WHAT, YOU'RE GONNA SKIP COLLEGE?
Let me see. Hmm...the sociology department?
RUSTLE
SNICKER SNICKER
I STILL DON'T KNOW...
OH! CHINAMI-SAN!
HELLO!
...ONE YEAR FROM NOW?
WHAT WILL I BE DOING...
YOU'RE CUTE, HANE-CHAN, YOU KNOW THAT? (Tencho)
HUH? (Senichi)
NOTHING!!
(Hane)
NIHONMATSU

...ON BREAK...
And today's Saturday... Not much time...
YEP. I HAVE TO SUBMIT IT NEXT MONDAY.
WHAT'S THAT, "ACADEMIC COURSE SURVEY?"
WOW. YOU'RE PLANNING TO GO TO KO UNIVERSITY?
YOU CAN DO IT, HANE-CHAN! YOU'RE SHARP AS A TACK!
WHISPER... He's such a liar... WHISPER... Failure as a parent
WHISPER
DON'T IGNORE ME!! OWWW!
ANYWAY, GETTING INTO KO U. MAKES ME FEEL LIKE, "OKAY, I GUESS I'M AT THIS LEVEL..."
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING THERE.
BUT THAT'S ALL.
KO U....
I WAS ACCEPTED THERE, AS A LAW MAJOR, BUT I DIDN'T GO.
NO, REALLY! I HEARD THIS FLYING CREATURE IS HAUNTING THE TEMPLE NEXT DOOR!
SERIOUSLY?! YOU OUGHTA CAPTURE IT AND TURN IT INTO THE FAMILY CAR!
Do you have a license?
Let me ride it, too!
IG-NORE


Errands
Pick up
•Three 4 1/2 lb. bags of salt
•Four 4 1/2 lb. bags of sugar
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
HUFF
HUFF
...AND I THINK IT'S GONNA BE MY LAST!!
SIZZLE

ONLY 150 MORE FEET...
GROAN...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

Ss ss ss...
I DON'T LIKE THAT SOUND!
GULP
TEAR
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
Brown at the root
...I'm sorry...
Ss ss ss...
UH-OH...
WHA-?!

Charm runs in my blood
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO NOW...

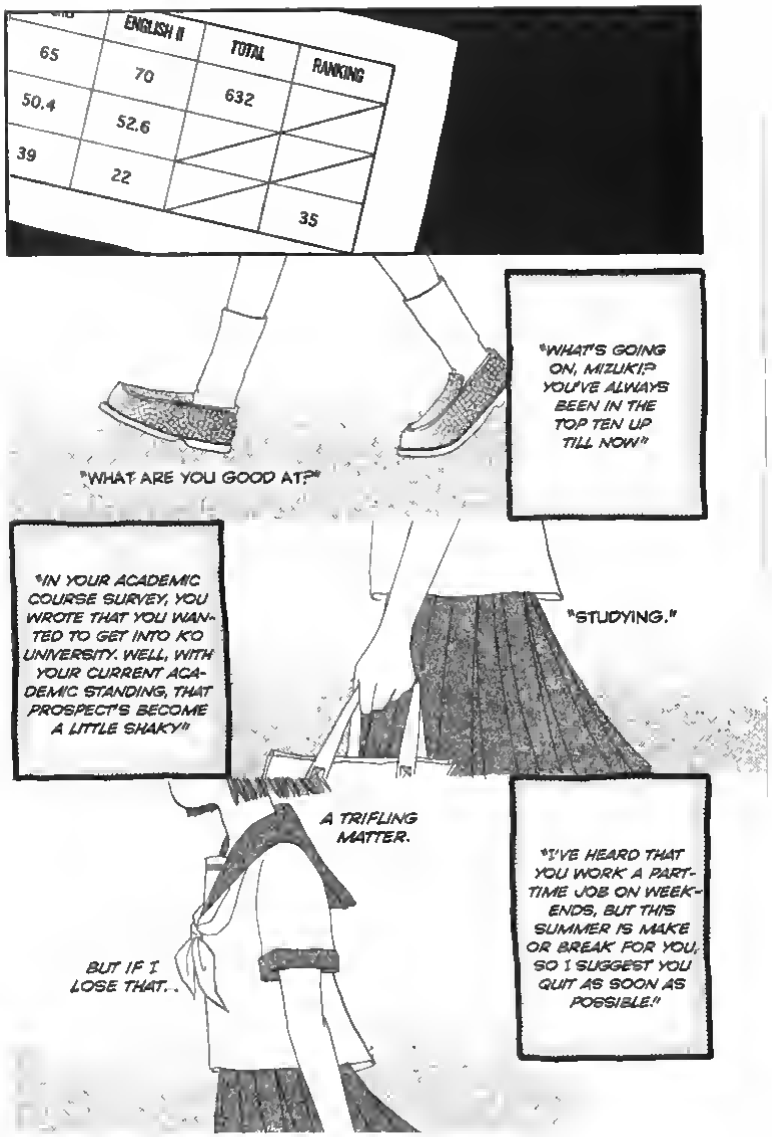
... LET ALONE ONE YEAR FROM NOW.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
0000 TWO YEARS AGO • • • •
FIRST DAY ON THE JOB...
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

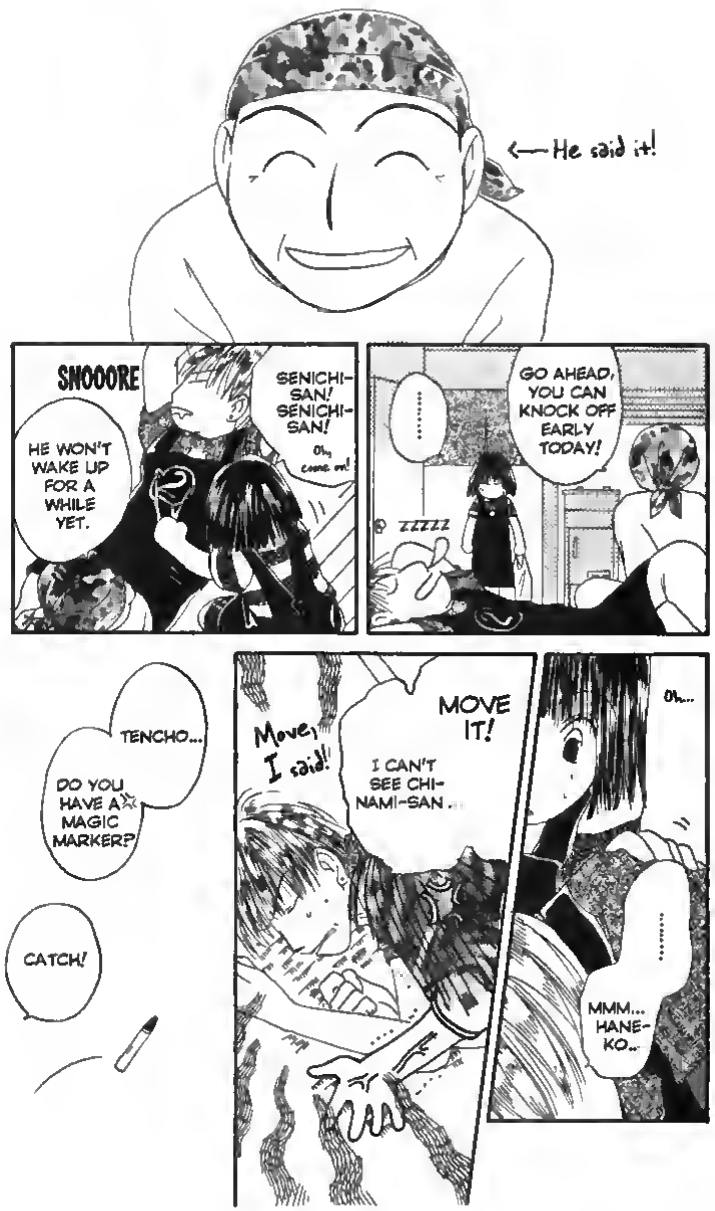
YOU'RE LOOKING AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER TODAY!
YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO THE LADIES, SENICHI-KUN!
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BUY MORE THAN USUAL TODAY.

EVEN ONE YEAR FROM NOW...
...IF I SAY "I'M BACK..."
THOSE WORDS MADE MY EARS TINGLE PLEASANTLY.
"WELCOME BACK!"
SEE ME IN THE FACULTY ROOM AFTER CLASS!
HELLOOO MIZUKI?
...THAT VOICE...
...IF I COULD STILL HEAR..
It can't be so bad at mine! I doubt I can even go to college now!
Aaaagh! I've gotta learn this!

Good girl
WELCOME BACK!
HERE'S...
...YOUR TIP!
WHOOP!
Kelp flavor? Heh!
THAT WAS SOME HAUL!

HANEKO...
GO BUY SOME SALT!
NIKONMATSU
WHAAAT?
I don't wanna!
Fuchuya-san is coming tomorrow. (always places a big order)
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT! JUST ONE 4 1/2 POUND BAG.
IT'S HOT TODAY, ISN'T IT?
OH! HI...
Chinigu-san!
It's too hot to make people buy stuff around.
I FREAKIN' HATE THIS! YOU PICK UP THE SALT!
HELLO!
...WHAT HAVE I GOT LEFT?


ENGLISH II
TOTAL
RANKING
65
70
632
50.4
52.6
39
22
35
"WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?"
"WHAT'S GOING ON, MIZUKI? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE TOP TEN UP TILL NOW"
"IN YOUR ACADEMIC COURSE SURVEY, YOU WROTE THAT YOU WANTED TO GET INTO K'O UNIVERSITY. WELL, WITH YOUR CURRENT ACADEMIC STANDING, THAT PROSPECT'S BECOME A LITTLE SHAKY"
"STUDYING."
A TRIFLING MATTER.
"I'VE HEARD THAT YOU WORK A PART-TIME JOB ON WEEKENDS, BUT THIS SUMMER IS MAKE OR BREAK FOR YOU. SO I SUGGEST YOU QUIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."
BUT IF I LOSE THAT..


He said it!
SNOOORE
SENICHI-SAN! SENICHI-SAN!
Oh, come on!
HE WON'T WAKE UP FOR A WHILE YET.
GO AHEAD, YOU CAN KNOCK OFF EARLY TODAY!
zzzzz
TENCHO...
DO YOU HAVE A MAGIC MARKER?
CATCH!
Move, I said!
MOVE IT!
I CAN'T SEE CHI-NAMI-SAN...
Oh...
MMM... HANE-KO..

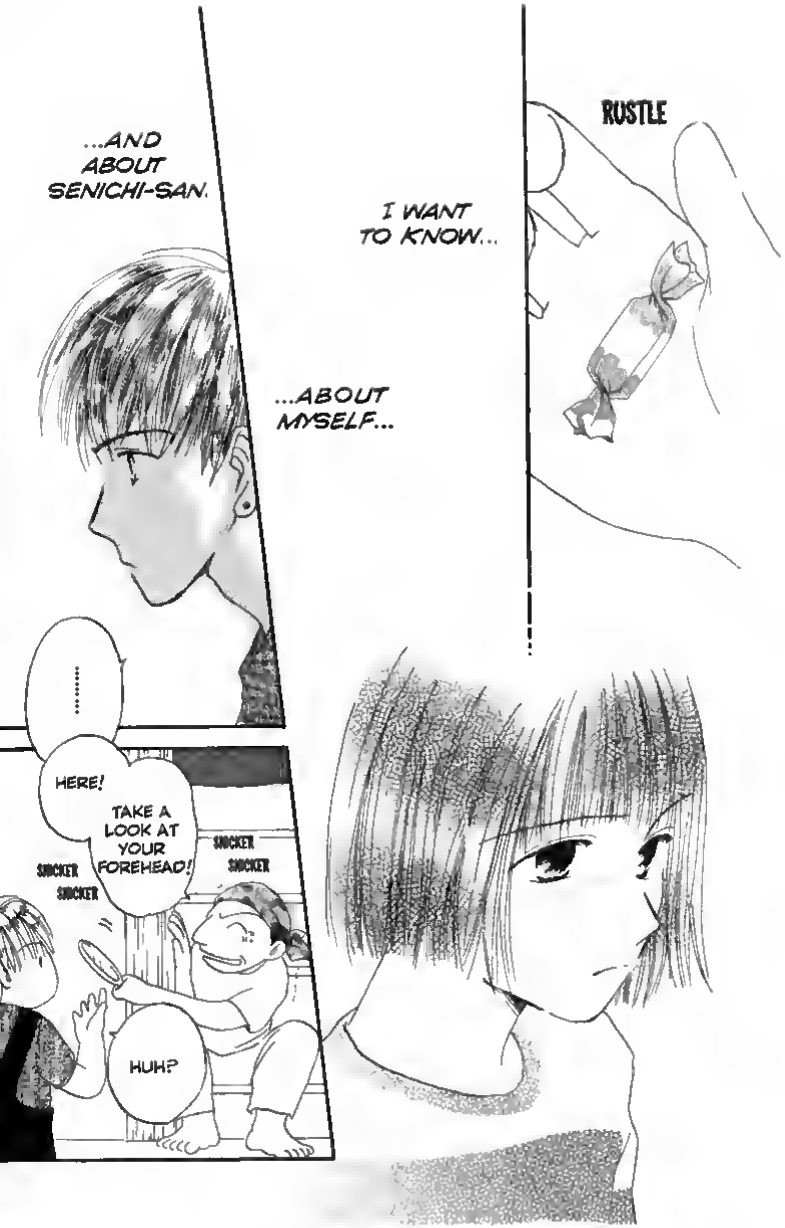
MAYBE I'LL ASK MY TEACHER FOR ADVICE WHEN I GET HOME.
WELCOME BACK!
BUT BEFORE THAT, I WANT TO ASK..

WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH?
I MEAN, IS IT RIGHT TO HAVE TO MAKE A SNAP DECISION...
...ABOUT MY ACADEMIC FUTURE ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS INTO MY SENIOR YEAR?
...A PROMISE THAT EVEN IN THE FUTURE...
...THIS PLACE WILL ALWAYS BE HERE.

Hee-hee-hee-hee-hee!
SWIPE
SWIPE
SWIPE
SWIPE
SWIPE
SWIPE
.....MM.
WELCOME BACK!
You were in a sound sleep for two hours!
HUH?
GOOD MORNING!
YEAH...
YAWN
WHEN HE SAYS THOSE WORDS...
...TO MY EARS THEY SOUND LIKE A FIRM PROMISE..

SLAM
SLUMP
AFTER ALL, YOU ALWAYS HAD NIHON-MATSU!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
This is sooo embarrassing..
KACHA
WHUMP
THAT WAS THE DOOR LEADING INTO THE STORE.

AGAIN?!!
zzz...
!!
UNGH!
WHACK
BACKHAND
I'M GOING HOME!!
I WAS JUST SAYING HOW EASY IT MUST'VE BEEN FOR YOU...
...TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION!
Dunn.
OH! SORRY. WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?


...AND ABOUT SENICHI-SAN.
I WANT TO KNOW...
RUSTLE
...ABOUT MYSELF...
.....
HERE!
TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR FOREHEAD!
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
HUH?

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS THAT SIMPLE FOR ME...
...TO AGREE TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS?

First of all, you're not a dingbat...
SO, WHAT DID YOU DECIDE? ARE YOU STILL AIMING FOR KO?
YES.
Although it's still too early to tell...
WELL, I HAVE TO SAY IT MAKES ME PROUD, HAVING ONE OF MY STUDENTS GO TO KO UNIVERSITY...
...ESPECIALLY BECAUSE...
...IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE A STUDENT HERE WAS ACCEPTED AT KO...NOT SINCE SENICHI NIHONMATSU.

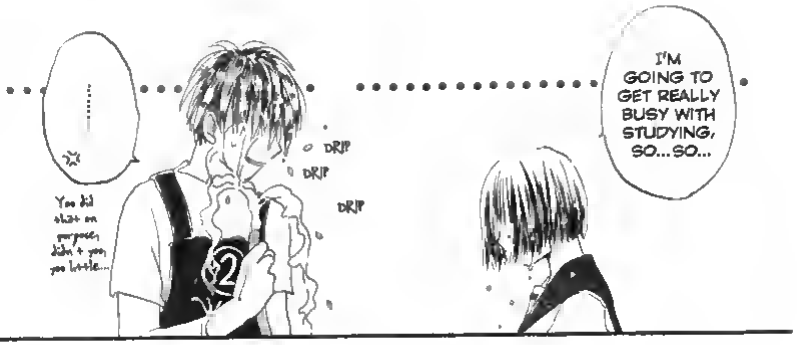
UWA HA HA HA HA
Why am I Ricemin?
.....
THERE ISN'T ANYTH--
*THE KANJI FOR RICE!
SIGH..
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY FRUSTRATIONS OUT ON HIM..
I'M SUCH A DINGBAT!
OI?
WHAT'S WRONG, MIZUKI?
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT. LET'S GET STARTED.
...OKAY.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

...
SENICHI-
SAN, WHY?
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
THAT WAS FOR THE "RICE" THING. NOW WE'RE EVEN
DRIP
DRIP
MMM... GOOD QUESTION...
REALLY, I DECIDED AT THE LAST MINUTE.
UP UNTIL I FINISHED TAKING KO UNIVERSITY'S ENTRANCE EXAM, I NEVER CONSIDERED TAKING OVER THE SHOP.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NIHONMATSU?

WHAT?
SPLASH
SE--!
SENICHI-SAN!
DRENCH
SOAK
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT...
"I WAS ACCEPTED THERE, AS A LAW MAJOR, BUT I DIDN'T GO."
...WHAT HE WAS BEFORE HE BECAME A 3RD-GEN OHAGI SHOP OWNER...
...OR WHAT HE DIDN'T BECOME.

...ABOUT PRIDE OR THE FUTURE, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
IT WASN'T...
IT WAS JUST A DECISION I MADE, FROM HERE.
... WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED TO DO.
BUT THAT WAS...
YEAH. I THOUGHT SO, TOO.

BUT ON THE WAY HOME, AFTER THE TEST...
MY OLD MAN NEVER TRIED TO FORCE ME INTO IT.
He didn't care which university I applied to either.
...I SAW THE UNLIT BASKET STEAMER AND...
...THE HALFWAY-CLOSED SHUTTER.
2
NIHONMATSU
AND WHEN I THOUGHT THAT TIME...
...THE TIME THAT FLOWED SINCE MY GRANDFATHER'S DAYS...
...WOULD STOP...


I'M GOING TO GET REALLY BUSY WITH STUDYING, SO...SO...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

Ah...
AH! BUT...
I GET THE PICTURE.
MAN, THIS YEAR'S O-BON IS GONNA BE TOUGH...
I WAS GOING TO SAY "IF I PASS THE ENTRANCE EXAM, I'LL COME BACK!!"
WELL, I GUESS I'D...
I'M, PROBABLY BEING TOTALLY SELFISH...
YEAH. GOOD LUCK!
BUT, THAT'S PRESUMING TOO MUCH...
...UM, NOTHING.

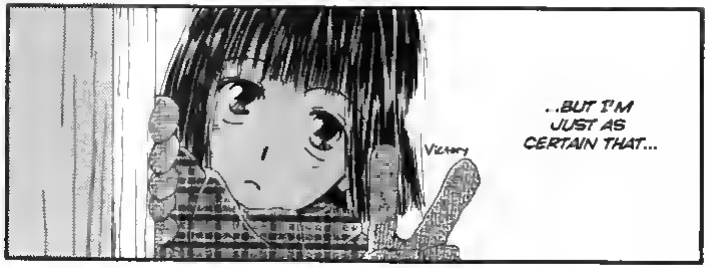
SENICHI-SAN, I'VE DECIDED...
...I'M GOING TO SHOOT FOR KO UNIVERSITY AFTER ALL.

FWASH
SO STARTING THIS SUMMER...
DRENCH
SPLASH
SOAK
BUT I'D BETTER PUT MY NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE...
YEAH, SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD GAME PLAN.
WHEN MY GRADES SLIPPED, I WAS REALLY FRUSTRATED.
...PROOF, I THINK, THAT THAT'S WHAT I REALLY WANT.

WHAT I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND, I CAME TO UNDER-STAND...
SEE YOU SOON!
...TWICE AT LEAST...
I'M SURE I'LL CHANGE, TOO..
OHAGI ♪
RED BEAN JAM WILL GIVE YOU A WIN...
...NOT EATING NIHON-MATSU'S IS KIND OF A SIN!
SENICHI, TODAY HANE-CHAN GETS HER RESULTS BACK!

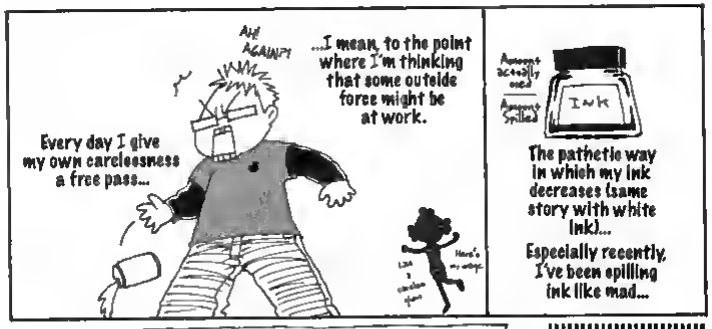
SEE YOU SOON!

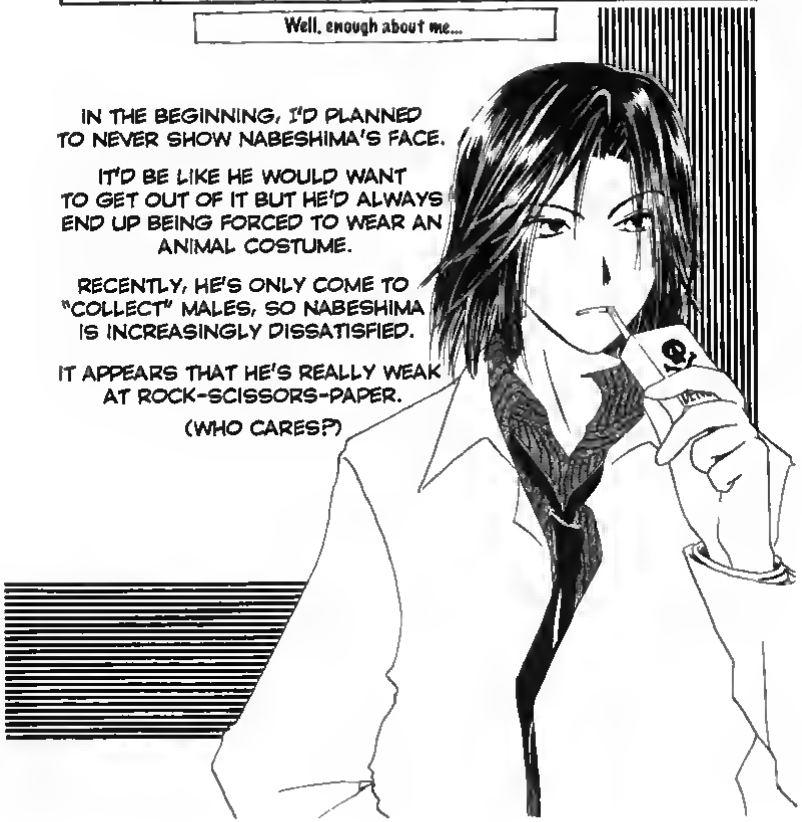
Mecasite: Comics Version!!
I'm too scared to ask "How did you like it?"
Oh! Well, you've made it to the end. Good job!
Get your butt out of my face!
Not with the naked eye, but it's more of a sensation where my brain sees
It seems that I'm the type of person who sees ghosts...
Amongst all that...
And when you think of "scary," you think of ghosts...
...but "Omukae desu." isn't scary at all.
Hi!
Hiya!
...like I was wearing a disposable body-warming patch.
When I looked down..
...my stomach suddenly felt hot...
Mm?
PUTT
PUTT
...the biggest mystery I've experienced is this.
One night, while riding through the mountains in my scooter...

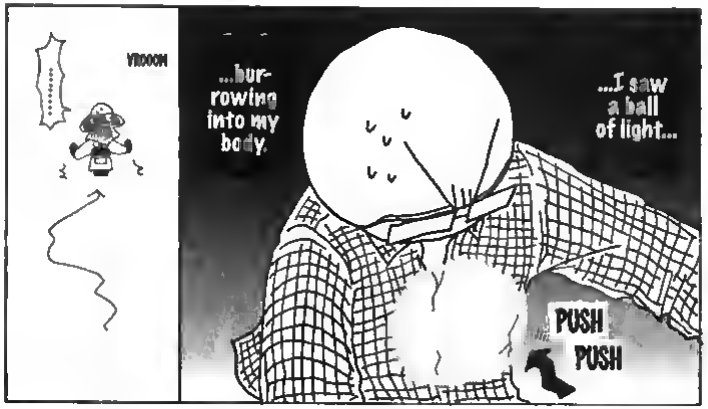


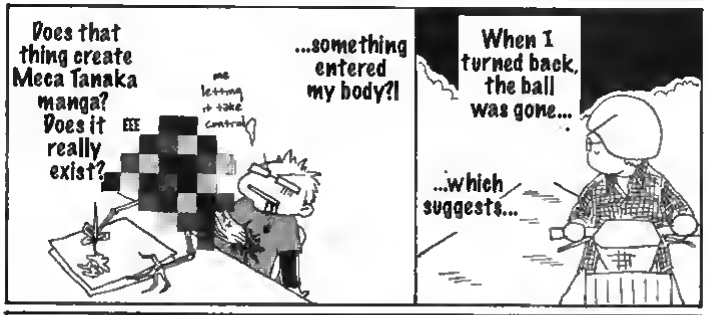
THE ETERNAL NIHONMATSU: THE END

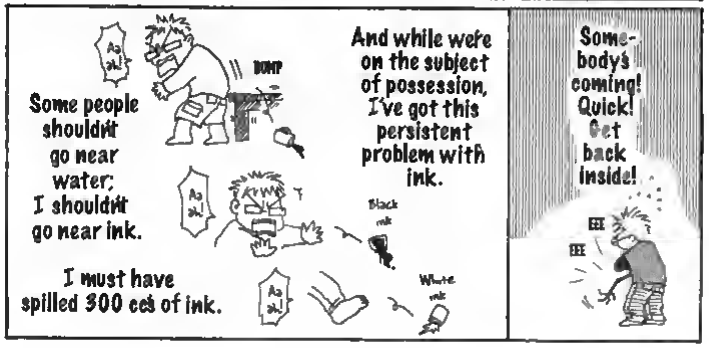
Mecasite:Comics Version!!


AH AGAIN?!
Every day I give my own carelessness a free pass...
...I mean, to the point where I'm thinking that some outside force might be at work.
Amount actually used
Amount spilled
Ink
The pathetic way in which my ink decreases (same story with white ink)...
Especially recently, I've been spilling ink like mad...
Well, enough about me...


IN THE BEGINNING, I'D PLANNED TO NEVER SHOW NABESHIMA'S FACE.
IT'D BE LIKE HE WOULD WANT TO GET OUT OF IT BUT HE'D ALWAYS END UP BEING FORCED TO WEAR AN ANIMAL COSTUME.
RECENTLY, HE'S ONLY COME TO "COLLECT" MALES, SO NABESHIMA IS INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED.
IT APPEARS THAT HE'S REALLY WEAK AT ROCK-SCISSORS-PAPER.
(WHO CARES?)




Does that thing create Meca Tanaka manga? Does it really exist?
me letting it take control
EEE
...something entered my body?!
When I turned back, the ball was gone...
...which suggests...


Some people shouldn't go near water; I shouldn't go near ink.
BUMP
I must have spilled 300 cc's of ink.
And while we're on the subject of possession, I've got this persistent problem with ink.
Black ink
White ink
Somebody's coming! Quick! Get back inside!
EEE
EEE

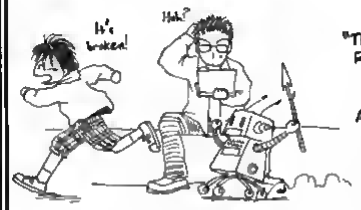
16-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, AGUMA.

ONLY HAS HER FAMILY NAME FOR THE TIME BEING.

SHE'S JUST AS SHE APPEARS, A STRAIGHT-SHOOTER.

BUT IF SOMEBODY TRIES TO ANALYZE HER, SHE CAN BECOME ONE SCARY WOMAN.

HAS FAIRLY LARGE BREASTS. (AGAIN, SO WHAT?)



BONUS STORIES:

"THE LAW OF CHANGE," WHICH I CREATED RIGHT AFTER MY DEBUT, WAS A LOT OF FUN TO DRAW.

I'D LOOOVE TO GET MY HANDS ON A PAIR OF FRAMELESS GLASSES LIKE THE ONES KAICHO WORE.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWO OF THEM AFTER THAT...

"TOKIWA NIHONMATSU"

...MMM, THIS STORY SPRANG FROM MY OWN PART-TIME JOB EXPERIENCE.

THERE IS NO REAL SHOP I MODELED "NIHONMATSU" ON, BUT THE OHAGI IN THE STORY IS BASED ON REAL OHAGI.

YOU CAN FIND IT AT A FAMOUS SHOP IN AICHI PREFECTURE.

YUZUKO-SAN IS THE EASIEST CAST MEMBER TO TEASE.

IN FACT, IT SEEMS THAT HAVING HER TEASED MAKES HER POPULAR.

I RECEIVED A BUNCH OF LETTERS FROM READERS SAYING, "I THOUGHT SHE WAS A BOY!" HEY, THIS STYLE DOESN'T LOOK HALF-BAD ON HER...

YOUNG, PHILANTHROPIC (FORMER) BASEBALL PLAYER, MADOKA TSUTSUMI.

HIS FACE IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CHILDLIKE...I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE MAIN CHARACTER, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT MADOKA SEEMS EXTREMELY LIFELESS, BUT DESPITE (BECAUSE OF?) THAT, HE'S POPULAR ANYWAY.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING OR WHAT HIS PERSONALITY IS LIKE.

G.S.G!

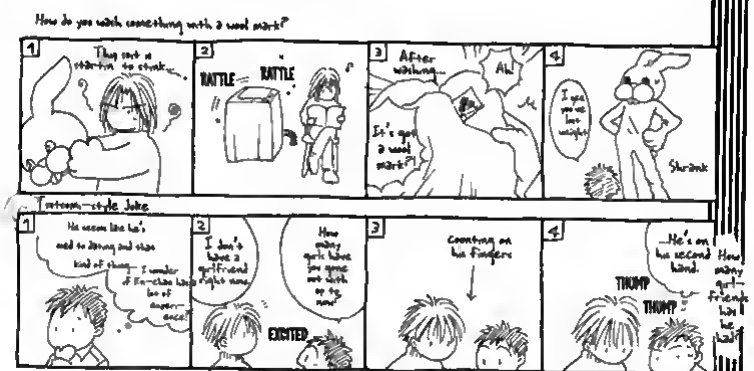
THANKS!!

MS. CHIE YAMAMOTO
MS. WAKAKO KAWASAKI
MY FAMILY
MY EDITOR
EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME, MECA TANAKA
EVERYONE WHO READ THIS MANGA

PLEASE KEEP READING!
I GUESS THAT'LL WRAP IT UP FOR NOW.

MECASITE ▶ http://www.asuka.or.jp/~wakana/

Meca Tanaka

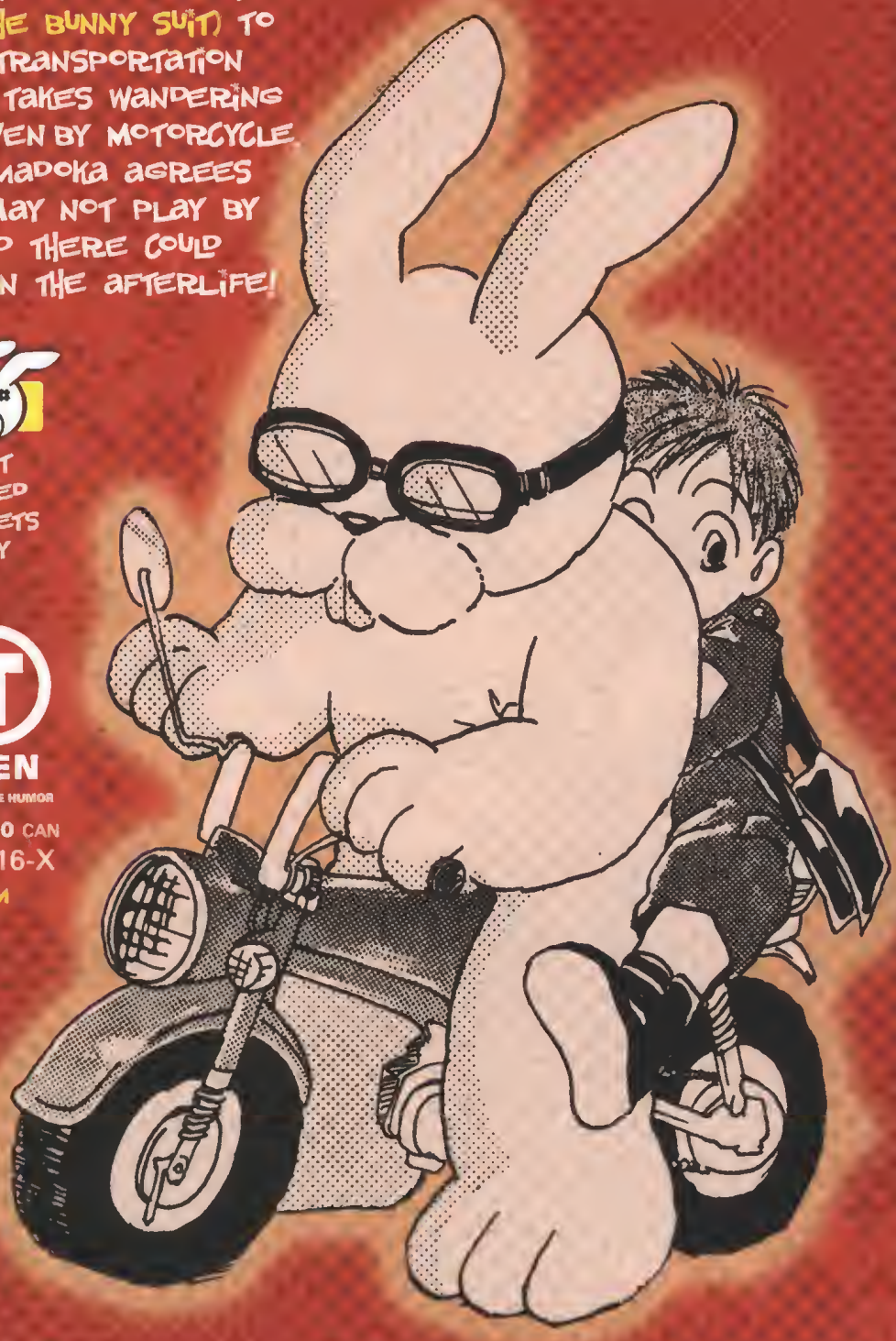

How do you catch something with a wool mask?
Thug
RATTLE
RATTLE
After washing...
Ah!
It's got a wool mask!!
I got on an ice-cream diet
Shrank
Tortoise-style Joke
He seems like he's used to staring and stuff
I wonder if he likes ice cream...
I don't have a girlfriend
How many girls have you gone out with so far?
EXISTED
counting on his fingers
...He's on his second hand.
How many girlfriends do I have in all?
THUMP
THUMP

Mecasite:Comics Version.// / END

Hop on the soul express!

WHAT IF YOU COULD SEE DEAD PEOPLE AND A GUY IN A GIANT BUNNY SUIT TRYING TO GET THEM TO THE OTHER SIDE?

MADOKA IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO IS RECRUITED BY NABESHIMA (THE GUY IN THE BUNNY SUIT) TO WORK FOR A TRANSPORTATION SERVICE THAT TAKES WANDERING SOULS TO HEAVEN BY MOTORCYCLE. BUT EVEN IF MADOKA AGREES TO HELP, HE MAY NOT PLAY BY THE RULES AND THERE COULD BE TROUBLE IN THE AFTERLIFE!



G.S.G!

IF YOU FIND A LOST SOUL ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW—GSG GETS THEM WHERE THEY NEED TO GO!

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